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Supporting our Soldiers during peace and war

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How to learn the DUI secret

Commentary by Jareta Coyle
Army Substance Abuse Program

There is a secret to drinking and not getting a DUI (driving under the influence). By the time you finish reading this article, you will know that secret. After fifteen years in the substance abuse prevention and treatment field, I often have seen people who don't understand how they could have gotten a DUI because they felt they had taken steps to prevent it.

First, you need to know that anybody can get a DUI in Maryland, and you don't have to be an alcoholic or problem drinker.

The level for legal intoxication is .08 percent Blood Alcohol Level (BAL) which means that it doesn't take but a couple of drinks in an hour and most people are at or over this level.

The choice of .08 percent is a good one because at this level 50 percent of the population will be impaired and unable to pass a field sobriety test, or FST. But, that also means that the other 50 percent will feel sober and be able to pass the coordination portion of a FST. The difference between the two groups is their degree of tolerance for alcohol.

Therefore, I think it's very important to educate people about the different types of tolerance.

Metabolic tolerance, for instance, occurs as the liver becomes more efficient at metabolizing alcohol. The liver recognizes and treats alcohol as a toxin. One effect of heavy drinking is the stimulation of the liver to produce more alcohol dehydrogenase, the major enzyme responsible for the destruction of alcohol. As a result, abstainers will not be able to metabolize alcohol as quickly as moderate drinkers. And moderate drinkers will not be able to metabolize alcohol as quickly as heavy drinkers. This type of tolerance decreases the effects of alcohol in the practiced drinker.

In fact, chronic tolerance develops very quickly in human beings. In as little as a few weeks, habitual

drinkers soon require an increase in their dosage of 30 to 50 percent to achieve the same euphoria they'd gotten on less alcohol earlier. This leads them to believe, when they don't feel "high," that they are sober enough to drink when in fact they may be legally drunk.

Acute tolerance, on the other hand, affects anyone who chooses to drink. Alcohol is one drug for which the body will develop tolerance during a single administration. This means that the effect of the alcohol is greater soon after intake as the blood alcohol levels are rising. So your lack of steadiness (or body sway) and slurred speed will be more pronounced as your BAL is rising. Later, when your BAL is falling, your body will have learned to compensate for the presence of alcohol and your symptoms may have disappeared.

For instance, you may have felt giddy and woozy at .08 percent and decided to quit drinking. Your BAL,

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2nd Place Winner
Newsletters category
2004 U.S. Army Keith L. Ware
Newspaper Competition

Front Page: SPC Anthony Mascari, Fort Lee, prepares his live lobster entre' during the Contemporary Hot Foods Cooking Competition on March 8. Related stories can be found on pages 7 and 15.
(Photo by Mindy Campbell)

MG Rochelle nominated for his third star and a new job as the Army's DCSPER. New Director, IMA will be CFSC's BG Macdonald

Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld announced recently that the President has nominated Major General Michael D. Rochelle, United States Army, for appointment to the rank of lieutenant general and assignment as Deputy Chief of Staff, G-1, United States Army, Washington, D.C. He is

currently serving as Director, Installation Management Agency, Arlington, Va.

The President also nominated Major General Robert Wilson, United States Army, for appointment to the rank of lieutenant general and assignment as Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management, United States Army, Washington, DC. He is currently serving as Assistant Deputy Chief of

Staff, G-3/5/7, United States Army, Washington, D.C.

Finally, Brigadier General John A. Macdonald, Commanding General, United States Army Community and Family Support Center, Alexandria, Va. will become the new Director, Installation Management Agency, Arlington, Va.

Post prepares for contingencies during exercise

by *Jeremy Heckler*

Fort A.P. Hill Public Affairs

It was a typical Tuesday morning at Fort A.P. Hill when a series of random events set the installation's command into action.

The events were part of a force protection exercise to ensure that Fort A.P. Hill is ready when disaster strikes.

"The exercise is to ensure that procedures are in place so that Fort A.P. Hill can meet every contingency," said Lt. Col. James Mis, garrison commander.

"The exercise focused on the ability of the emergency operations center command and control to support an escalation to force protection condition charlie or delta through significant intelligence driven information," said David Hughes, chief of plans, operations and security, DPTMS.

Several operations are conducted on Fort A.P. Hill each year to ensure that everyone is prepared should disaster strike.

What made this exercise unique is that instead of simulating the actual response by members of the team, Fort A.P. Hill assets were on post executing those decisions to ensure preparedness.

In the emergency operations center, Hughes and Keith Brewer provided intelligence on what was going on, both on Fort A.P. Hill as well as in the region.

The team had to make decisions on the events based on intelligence that illegal immigrants of Arab descent were found on Fort Meade, Md., with the intent of attacking that installation and possibly others.

During the course of the field problem, the command team had to deal with a variety of events that included, a fleeing fugitive, a guest at the Lodge with a possible heart attack and the severing of the post's communications system.

While the command staff made decisions, personnel from the Directorate of Emergency Services responded to the incidents in the field with help from Caroline County Sheriff's Department.

"The response to any incident is geographic," said Hughes. "We put in place mutual aid and support agreements to address those issues. We need to show we're good partners in the county because when there is a threat it isn't going to limit itself to the post."

As part of the exercise, the Fort A.P. Hill Police Department worked with local law enforcement and tracked a fugitive who had shot a sheriff's deputy and then fled into Cooke Camp.

Emergency services personnel also had an opportunity to work out the kinks in their force protection plan.

"We had some hiccups that we had to overcome," said David Vaughn, Directorate of Emergency Services Director.

Vaughn said he was happy with how his team responded to each incident.

"The folks who were tasked responded appropriately and in a timely manner," said Vaughn. "They know what to do."

An American Soldier comes home

By Renita Foster,
Fort Monmouth Public Affairs

*And when our work is done,
our course on earth is run,
may it be said 'well done!'
Be thou at peace.*

Stanza from the West Point Alma Mater

The Army lost another good Soldier the other day; make that a great Soldier. Something obvious to anyone who saw Dennis' graduation picture proudly displayed on the home dining room table. The meticulously fitting United States Military Academy at West Point uniform with full-dress, hat in one hand and saber in the other depicted him as a Soldier with professional knowledge well beyond his years. Here was a young

When several unit citations as well as a unit crest were discovered missing, the lieutenant quickly stripped off his and pinned them on his fallen comrade.

man who loved his country and was ready to serve.

The brilliant grin accompanied by twinkling eyes also suggested the kind of

officer who could successfully blend professionalism with creativity to ensure Soldiering was challenging and just plain fun for those he commanded.

That impression was affirmed through many emails sent by his fellow service members from Iraq following his death. But it was his battalion commander who put it best, "Dennis loved his platoon and they loved him."

Dennis had shown a destiny for greatness even before his USMA graduation 18 months earlier. He'd served as Swim Team Captain his

senior year and was selected as the recipient of the coveted, annual Class of 1923 Memorial Award, an honor given to the men's swim team outstanding member. He had also successfully attended infantry basic training, airborne and ranger school before deploying to Iraq.

The dreaded news came just about six weeks later on a late Saturday night. Dennis, along with four other service members on patrol in Iraq, had been the victims of an improvised explosive device. After the family's initial shock and grief, and the inevitable question of "why him?" for which there is never an answer, they just wanted him home.

A fellow USMA classmate and infantry lieutenant was given the mission of bringing Dennis back to New Jersey. As the hearse left, the non-commissioned officer assisting in the last leg of journey made a final, foreboding remark to the young escort officer, "I hope never to see you again here, sir." It was a comment the lieutenant knew would haunt him for a very long time.

A private viewing for Dennis' parents later that day prompted a uniform inspection to ensure he looked as grand now as he had in his graduation picture. It was imperative all recently earned medals and ribbons be properly placed on his Class A dress uniform. When several unit citations as well as a unit crest were discovered missing, the lieutenant quickly stripped off his and pinned them on his fallen comrade. Dennis' commander also called from Iraq ordering 1st Lieutenant rank be placed on Dennis. After all, the promotion would have been official in just two more days.



1 Lt. Dennis Zelinsky

The parents had several questions about the insignia on their son's uniform. Gently providing the answers established a bond between Dennis' family and the lieutenant, especially when they learned of his generous transfer of ribbons and medals to their son. Insisting he accompany them home, the lieutenant provided additional information and stories about Dennis. The gesture made him an honorary family member in Dennis' household forever.

Another presence that made a significant contribution in a community gathering to mourn this latest military casualty was the New Jersey State Police. From the second they learned about Dennis, the troopers guarded his home, shielding the family from unwanted onlookers and visitors.

During the two-day viewing held at Dennis' high school, the police surrounded the area continuing the

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mission. They were determined the family, relatives, friends and fellow veterans would remain undisturbed during their time of grief.

The escorting lieutenant also stood steadfastly behind the family as if to say "I've got your back," once again providing a pillar of strength and support.

Maintaining a professional stance on either side of the casket was the honor guard from Dennis's unit, the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault). During breaks, the Soldiers could be seen praying together or alone. Many wept while one read his Bible for comfort. Another "Screaming Eagle" referred to Dennis as his "brother," and others explained they had volunteered for the duty "because it could have been me and hopefully my fellow Soldiers would show they cared."

The fact that the designated viewing hours stretched well beyond the exact times mattered little to the honor guard or state police. They understood this was the last opportunity to have one last moment with a young man whose life had touched so many others.

Witnessing Dennis' family and friends say goodbye had been heart-breaking, especially when some mourners could not stop emotional outbursts while kneeling at Dennis' casket. But his fiancé's tears at that final farewell were devastating. A fellow classmate and officer also serving in Iraq, she'd been given special permission to return and be with Dennis one last time. The couple had planned to marry when they returned from their deployment, but that union would never happen. So many hearts went out to his future bride, who had asked to sleep in Dennis' room at home just to feel his presence once more. And while there was

much discussion as to what to say or do to comfort her, the conclusion was there were no words or actions to console her pain.

As the first viewing day came to an end, the State Police pulled out cots to continue their vigil on behalf on Dennis and his family. They had volunteered to stay overnight with Dennis at the high school, rather than have the fallen warrior make what they felt was an unnecessary move back to the funeral home. And although they were relieved the next morning by other officers, the overnight guards refused to leave. "We want and need to be here," they said simply.

A humble request had been made by one family friend for the second day. He was a retired Army officer who had encouraged Dennis to apply to West Point to gain one the country's most prominent educations and become a part of "America's greatest Soldiers." Feeling an enormous responsibility for Dennis' death, he asked if he could pay homage by helping the honor guard. The offer was graciously accepted, and appearing in a uniform that he maintained in prime condition, the officer stood his turn at Dennis' side.

This was also the day the USMA Class of 2004 was officially promoted to 1st Lieutenant. Troubled that his fallen friend's parents had been denied the chance to promote their son, the escort proposed Dennis' mother and father do the honors of pinning on his 1st Lt. Bars. The bereaved couple gladly accepted, and for that moment, their son's tragedy was a trifle more bearable.

A cold hard stinging rain was in progress when it came time to take Dennis back to the funeral home after the second viewing. With everyone gone, how easy it would have been to simply rush Dennis back inside the hearse and mortuary. But the Scream-

ing Eagle honor guard and state police performed their duty magnificently with their rigid stance at attention stance and time lengthened hand salutes, despite the freezing water pelting them. In fact, each and every time Dennis was moved to any location, much of the time in frigid cold, not once did these Soldiers and police officers shirk their duties.

At Dennis' funeral the next day, the New Jersey State Police and their Bagpipers along with cadets from USMA and the USMA Preparatory School, was an extraordinary vision. The formations symbolized strength, honor, and the importance of duty toward a fallen comrade.

During the service, words of comfort came from the family's minister, a USMA classmate, and Dennis' younger brother. The

most profound impression, however, was his mother standing before her son's casket sharing moments of Dennis' life that were most dear to her. She never once broke down or stopped to compose herself; instead, she captivated every grief-stricken soul there the way only a mother

As the first viewing day came to an end, the State Police pulled out cots to continue their vigil on behalf on Dennis and his family. They had volunteered to stay overnight with Dennis at the high school, rather than have the fallen warrior make what they felt was an unnecessary move back to the funeral home. And although they were relieved the next morning by other officers, the overnight guards refused to leave. "We want and need to be here," they said simply.

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could. Later, she confided this was something she was compelled to do on behalf of her late son, and that her strength came from faith.

"I touched Dennis' casket and asked Jesus to give me the courage to speak," she said. "Anyone who was there and heard me can never doubt the kind of strength and power that comes from faith."

The state police guided Dennis to his final destination at the USMA cemetery the following day. Despite the huge motorcade and intense cold, they expertly maneuvered the convoy

for the two hour drive. One officer remarked, "I'm glad for the chance to take care of a good guy."

One notable sight during the journey was the hundreds of state workers along the highway waving American flags. Many saluted as Dennis' hearse drove by, while others held their hats or hands over their hearts.

At the cemetery service, Dennis received full military honors and the family given the traditional American flag and the medals he had earned. Taps brought the ceremony to a close, but the haunting melody served as a reminder that the hardest chal-

lenge of all had just begun; learning how to live without Dennis.

Ironically, the parent's who had realized that greatest fear of losing a child, were the same ones who provided the most comfort. "Dennis stood behind the nation's mission 100 percent, ready to serve and protect the freedoms so many citizens cherish. He lived the Army values of loyalty, duty, respect, selfless sacrifice, honor, integrity, and personal courage," said Dennis' mother and father.

This Airborne Ranger can rest in peace now; his mission is complete. Dennis came home a protector of his country, a hero.

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however, will continue to rise after you stop drinking as your body continues to absorb the alcohol already ingested. Once it peaks, you BAL will start to drop. You may then begin to feel perfectly sober at .10 percent or more, leading you to think that you've sobered up when in fact all you've done is developed acute tolerance to the physical affects of the alcohol.

In one study done with college students, subjects appeared very intoxicated at .15 percent BAL, but while their BAL was falling, they later appeared sober at levels as high as .20 percent. It is a case of your body tricking you into feeling sober even though you are legally drunk.

On the other hand, some ef-

fects of drugs and alcohol never show tolerance.

For instance, the ability of morphine to constrict the pupils of the eyes shows no tolerance, no matter how long the drug has been taken. The same is true for visual nystagmus and alcohol. The eyes never develop tolerance for alcohol and will exhibit nystagmus at elevated BAL levels no matter how practiced or profes-

sional a drinker you are. Hence the field sobriety test now includes a visual nystagmus test. Before it's introduction, approximately 25 percent of intoxicated drivers stopped were able to pass the FST and were released.

The bottom line is, you can't trust your body to tell you if you are safe to drive after you've been drinking. 'It will lie to you.' The secret to drinking and not

getting a DUI is to not drive if you've had more than two drinks in one hour. Use a designated driver for your safety, for the sake of your career and for others' safety. And if you are out and about on your own, remember, 'you' are the designated driver. . . for yourself.



Soldier Training

On the Front Burner

Top chefs, team honored at Culinary Arts awards ceremony

by Mindy Campbell
Fort Lee Traveller

After surviving the sweltering heat of the kitchen for two weeks, the Army's top chefs remained cool as the winners of the U.S. Army Culinary Competition were announced Friday.

The competition, which was held this year from March 6-17 at Fort Lee, began 31 years ago to challenge military cooks to continually raise the standards of culinary excellence and professionalism, and to promote camaraderie and educational opportunities.

The competition is rated as the largest culinary arts competition in America, featuring more than 10 teams, competing with more than 135 food service professionals entering 339 exhibits, according to Lt. Col. Don Vtipil, director of the Army Center of Excellence, Subsistence.

"Keeping our show on the cutting edge of culinary techniques has been what has kept it strong for 31 years," Vtipil said.

The competition also strengthens the skills the Soldiers have both in garrison and on the battlefield.

"The enhanced knowledge learned from culinary arts provides our food service specialists with valuable skills which improves the food quality, quality of life and esprit de corps for our warriors regardless of whether they are serving in the dusty sands of Iraq, the rocky mountains of Afghanistan, the sweltering jungles of Africa or in their garrison dining



The winning team—Team Korea

facility at their homestation," Vtipil said.

That knowledge will help Army food service professionals improve food at their duty station, said Sgt. 1st Class Victor Diaz, Fort Carson team manager.

Despite his 19 years in the Army, Diaz said he still gained a lot of knowledge from this competition.

"You are never too old to learn something new," he said.

Diaz was impressed with his team's showing at the competition.

"We only had a few weeks to train," he said. "We didn't know what to expect."

His team's success at the event will help motivate them for next year.

"We will come back next year stronger and more prepared," he said.

During the ceremony, the installation of the year was announced. Repeating a win from last year, Team Korea once again took home the title.

Winning the award means a lot to Team Korea, said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Travis Smith, team manager.

"Our team stuck together better than any other team I saw here," he said. "We were there at every event to support each other."

As last year's winner, Team Korea set their goal for winning the title again this year but was unsure of how they would do.

"It was a close competition," Smith said. "We came back stronger this year. We trained harder and learned a lot from last year."

Smith and his team are already thinking ahead to next year's competition, but first they will relish going home and celebrating.

"I am really proud of everyone on our team," Smith said.

The representatives at the culinary competition are the "best of the best in military food service," said Brig. Gen. Mark A. Bellini, U.S. Army Quartermaster Center and School commander.

"It is clear to everyone who has seen and tested the fruits of your work that you have talents way above the standard," Bellini said. "By raising the bar, you are contributing directly to strengthening our already strong Army."

Asymmetric Warfare Group activated at Fort Meade

By K.P. Rowe

Fort Meade SoundOff!

During the last few years, as Army posts have been deactivated as a result of the Base Realignment and Closure, it has not been uncommon to see a unit's colors put away. On occasion, the colors will be unfurled at a later date on another post, but many times, they are gone forever.

While the Army has become smaller over the years, it grew by one unit March 8 as the Asymmetric Warfare Group (AWG) unfurled its colors for the first time at a ceremony at McGill Training Center. With members of the U.S. Army's ceremonial band, Pershing's Own, filling the auditorium with martial music, an audience of nearly 200 Soldiers, civilians and family members watched as the unit's commander, command sergeant major and Soldiers were introduced for the first time. Made up of less than 60 Soldiers in 12 different Military Occupational Specialties, the unit will eventually grow to nearly 400.

The decision to form the AWG was made in 2003. With the U.S. military committed to fighting the Global War on Lt. Gen. James J. Lovelace spoke about how ideal of a location Fort Meade is for the Asymmetric Warfare Group (AWG) during the unit's activation ceremony.

Terrorism, Army leaders decided that a unit was needed to help combat the enemy's ability to use asymmetric weapons on the battlefield. Suicide bombers, improvised explosive devices (IED) and kidnapping are all examples of asymmetric weapons.

Vice Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Richard Cody told the

audience that there is absolutely no one more adaptive on the battlefield than the American Soldier. "They are challenging our Army and this nation with their creativity. The Soldiers of the AWG are never satisfied with good enough They demand the newest, the most effective and the best," he said.

The AWG will help Army units to be better prepared to anticipate enemy activities and help them destroy the enemy's capability to conduct offensive operations.

Cody said Fort Meade was chosen for the home of the AWG for a variety of reasons. "There is a tremendous growth potential here. Fort Meade is close to Aberdeen Proving Ground and to Fort A.P. Hill. It also makes sense to have the AWG at Fort Meade as the unit will eventually come under the 20th Support Command that will be headquartered here."

The AWG is already making an impact as nearly one-third of its Soldiers are deployed, training and advising units on the ground.

Gen. Cody reminded the audience that America is a nation at war, and that units like the AWG are leading the fight in Afghanistan and Iraq. In fact, many AWG Soldiers are already deployed.

The capabilities of the AWG brings to the battlefield are critical, said Cody. "We hear a great deal about how complex the enemy situation is in Iraq and how adaptive the enemy is, but what we don't hear is how adaptive and innovative are Soldiers are at every level."

Cody spoke highly of the AWG. "When the odds are the longest, when the enemy is toughest, when we

simply must win - I know the AWG will get the job done."

The AWG is led by experienced leaders. The commander of the unit is Col. Robert Shaw, a Special Forces officer who has been in the Army 24 years. He has served in a variety of assignments that include being a Ranger instructor at the Army Ranger school. He has also commanded two Special Forces A-Teams and served in various staff positions both in Germany and the United States. Col. Shaw is excited about the opportunity of leading the AWG. "I am extremely fortunate to be commanding a unit like this," he said.

He also said how proud he is of his Soldiers, not only the ones that participated in the ceremony, but also the ones who are already carrying out the unit's mission.

Command Sgt. Maj. Alfred Birch, the AWG's command sergeant major, has been in uniform since 1977. A veteran of numerous contingency missions, Birch has also served in Operations Joint Cause, Desert Storm, Joint Endeavor, Joint Guard, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

James Lovelace prepared the colors for presentation. Lovelace unfurled the colors and showcased the black and red guidon trimmed in gold. He then presented the young unit's colors to Col. Shaw who in turn passed them to Birch who then returned them to the color guard.

The ceremony concluded with the playing of the Army Song before the color guard, now carrying the unit's colors, retired the colors and the Soldiers marched from the auditorium.

Their vigilance keeps fort safe

by Renita Foster

Fort Monmouth Public Affairs

Any “bad guys” planning harm to Fort Monmouth had better think again. Guarding the installation day and night are the Alutiq-Wackenhut Security Services (AWSS) officers and they are experts in diffusing potentially threatening situations.

Take one recent afternoon, for example, when Sgt. Gorhau and Security Officers Thomas, Grasso, and Roberts were on guard duty at the Johnston Gate (also known as the West Gate).

It was business as usual until the guards watched a man park his car adjacent to the gate, then go around the fenced area to the guard shack. They also noticed he was carrying a package.

Thomas was immediately suspicious since the man approached on foot instead of driving up to the gate in a car like most people wanting to enter the installation.

When Thomas questioned the individual, the man said he worked for United Parcel Service (UPS) and had a package to deliver to someone on post.

“But this guy had no point of contact or phone number to call, and he couldn’t tell us who the package was for,” said Thomas.

The man was not wearing a UPS uniform and the officers became even more alarmed when they inspected his identification (ID).

Laminated with cheap plastic, the picture was off center and past the expiration date.

“The photo looked like it was a normal picture that had been cut out and glued on a piece of paper; then printed out on a personal computer,” added Roberts.

Thomas’ alarm instincts escalated when the man refused to put the package down; even after the officer instructed him to place it on the ground and leave it there.

Eventually, the man did as he was told, but the guards had already taken precautions to make sure the installation was protected.

First, the security officers decided to “freeze” the situation. Normally, they would have called a security services supervisor. Luckily, Sgt. Gorhau was already there.

“Because the incident and ID card were both questionable, I requested someone from the Department of Emergency Services (DES) to report to the scene for further assessment,” said Gorhau.

Within seconds, DES personnel including Lt. McConnell, police supervisor, Detective (Det.) Sergott, Det. Geiss, Officers Lukanovic, Shartless, Tilton, Murrell, Crutchley, Dixon, and Drumm arrived and concurred with Gorhau and the AWSS security guards’ suspicions regarding the ID card and package.

Gorhau and the rest of the security officers blocked access to Fort Monmouth from Route 35 while DES police officers redirected outbound fort traffic from the Avenue of Memories.

“It’s crucial to secure a potentially hazardous area as quickly as possible,” said Officer Honan, deputy police

chief. “This is for the protection and safety of the work force. The police also monitor all procedures to make sure they are performed correctly. In this particular incident, their response and actions were precise and professional.”

Other units responding to the incident included the 902nd Military Intelligence, Fort Monmouth Fire & Emergency Services, 754th Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Company, Eatontown Police Department, and Monmouth County K-9 (a bomb sniffing dog).

The package was examined by Team Leader, Staff Sgt. Hardiek, 754th EOD while the K-9 unit searched the vehicle. Both units determined there were no explosive materials.

Fort Monmouth police detectives contacted UPS and verified the employment of the sub-contractor. The package was then delivered to the designated employee here.

Security procedures required the Fort Monmouth Garrison Installation Operations Center (IOC) to keep in contact at all times with DES during the incident and make notifications to the Garrison Command as the event progressed.

“Communications between all agencies during an emergency are vital so the command can be updated. If a decision is needed to increase the Fort Protection Level, the IOC can make the announcement via the Fort Monmouth Emergency System,” said Mr. Paquet, operations specialist.

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According to Gorhau, the incident was a valuable experience for the AWSS. He believes their handling of the event demonstrates their vigilance

and should reinforce the Fort Monmouth community's confidence in the security guards' ability to protect them.

"Joint operations of this nature also provide all parties involved with

the opportunity to improve through practical application and self evaluation," said Gorhau. "So all terrorists and criminals, beware. We are ready."

A Long Journey Home

After 36 years, Soldier reunited with his long-lost dog tags

Story and photos by Mindy Campbell, Fort Lee Traveller

Every Soldier has one.

Although it's smaller than a driver's license, it is closer to a Soldier's heart.

Identification tags, commonly known as dog tags, hold invaluable information about a Soldier. Since 1917, all combat Soldiers have worn a form of dog tags on chains around their necks.

From the Vietnam jungles to the markets of Ho Chi Minh City to Fort Lee, the journey for one dog tag has been a long one.

The shiny oblong metal disk traveled thousands of miles, and more than three decades elapsed before finally coming to rest in one Soldier's hands Jan. 26.

"When all you lost during a day in Vietnam was your dog tags, it was considered a good day," said Van Miller, of Dinwiddie.

As a member of a five-person sniper team assigned to the 25th Infantry Division during 1969-70, the sergeant spent days at a time in the thick Vietnam jungles. On one such outing, his dog tags vanished — maybe caught on a branch, possibly stuck in the mud. Miller isn't even sure when or where he lost them.

"When you are chopping through the jungle, losing your dog tags is the least of your worries," said Miller.

But to U.S. military members who wore them, those tags represented more than just names and numbers.



One of Miller's grandchildren checks out the long-missing dog tags after the Fort Lee ceremony.

They were symbols of life and death. Once lost, though, the dog tags were long forgotten by Soldiers such as Miller.

"I didn't think anything about losing them," Miller said. "I never even applied to get them replaced."

But for Miller and 36 other servicemen, the story doesn't end there.

Lost No More

An Illinois couple, Verlyn "Swede" and Martha Roskam, were traveling in Vietnam on business in August 2001. One day while Roskam was tied up in meetings, Martha went shopping in a busy market in Ho Chi Minh City. While browsing the many booths for

possible souvenirs for her family, Martha's eyes caught sight of something — 37 American dog tags bound by a plastic string sitting atop a basket of old coins.

"I felt a profound sense of sadness," said Martha, whose father served in World War I, her brothers in World War II and her husband in the Korean War. "I knew what they represented."

With her husband's encouragement, Martha returned to the booth the next day and purchased the dog tags for \$20.

Upon their return home, the Roskams contacted their son, state Sen.

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Peter Roskam, to help find the tags' owners. With the help of government contacts and a private investigator, the Roskams began contacting and reuniting the lost tags with the servicemen and their families.

Since that time, the Roskams have returned 18 dog tags, and they are in the process of delivering six more.

"It is just something we needed to do — to say thanks to these gentlemen for their time in Vietnam," Roskam said. "It was a matter of honor."

Everyone the Roskam's have been in contact with has been very appreciative, he said.

"Big burly guys wept, tears coming down their face," Roskam said.

Their journey across the nation is a calling, Martha said.

"This is what we are supposed to do," she said. "It's like a quest."

Home at Last

When Miller received a letter from the senator in 2005 about his lost dog tags, he thought it was a scam and ignored the letter.

However, in November Miller and his wife, Carol, began getting several dozen calls a day regarding the Roskams and the tags.

"I must have got 25 to 50 calls a day," said Miller, who is a retired electrician for a chemical company in Hopewell, Va. "After that, I started to think there might be something to this."

After finally talking to the Roskams, Miller concluded that this was legitimate.

So, the Roskams flew out from Wheaton, Ill., and in a ceremony at Fort Lee reunited Miller with his dog tags. With his wife, two children and several grandchildren looking on, an emotional Miller accepted the dog tags.

"I am proud to have served my country," he said. "It is one of the greatest things I ever did. I really cherish the time I spent over there."

Although he never thought about the dog tags until he received the letter from the Roskams, Miller said it was amazing and unreal to see them again.



The missing dog tags

"Dog tags mean a lot to a Soldier, especially a foot Soldier," said Miller, who spent 11 months and 23 days in Vietnam before having to return to the states when his father died. "They represent that I didn't lose my life. Dog tags are your lifeline to the outside world."

For Miller's wife, Carol, the event was a welcomed one.

"I think this brought a lot of mixed emotions to the surface," she said. "When he returned home, no one said thank you. This is a small way of saying thanks. I think it helps close the book on an otherwise sad story."

Miller is unsure of what he is going to do with the dog tags.

"I think I will let my children decide what to do with them," he said.

In the meantime, Miller is planning a trip to Mississippi where he and several other people from his church will be helping repair homes damaged by Hurricane Katrina.

"I am very proud of him — I always have been," said Carol. "He is a good fellow."

Both Miller and Carol were very appreciative of what the Roskams have done.

"It would have been easy for the Roskams to have said they didn't respond to the letter so let's forget about

them," Carol said. "But they are not that kind of people. It is a matter of honor. I think they would have gone to any length to get it to him."

During the ceremony, Fort Lee Garrison Commander Col. Gwen Bingham presented the Roskams with a dog tag-shaped coin of excellence from Maj. Gen. Mitchell H. Stevenson, U.S. Army Combined Arms Support Command and Fort Lee commanding general.

"The Roskams bought these dog tags to keep them from being treated like trinkets, because you see, each one of these dog tags represents a Soldier — a son or daughter — perhaps a father or a mother," Bingham said. "For the men and women they belong to and their families, they are priceless symbols of the Soldiers' sacrifice and service for which we are eternally grateful."

Twenty dollars for 37 dog tags was a small price to pay, said Miller.

"I would be willing to pay \$20 for my dog tags any day of the week," Miller said.

— For more details on the Roskam's dog tag return program, log on to the Web site www.roskamdogtags.com.

U.S. Army Soldier Systems Center opens fitness room

NATICK, Mass. -- A ribbon-cutting ceremony recognizing the opening of the U.S. Army Soldier Systems Center's (SSC) new fitness facility was held on Mar. 1. During the ceremony, a ribbon was cut by Col. Dorothy Johnson, SSC deputy commander, Col. Gwendolyn Boney-Harris, deputy director, Installation Management Agency Northeast Region, and Barry Williams, garrison manager

During the ceremony, Col. Johnson thanked the Public Works Directorate team, which was headed by Pat Dooley, and thanked Dee Dench for her work on the contracts. She also thanked Williams and John Manning, deputy garrison manager.

Johnson extended special thanks to the SSC Installation Commander, Brigadier General James Moran, whose vision made the fitness center a reality.

Boney-Harris praised Williams for all his work regarding the fitness room and thanked all SSC tenant partners for what they do every day for our Soldiers and military members.

Manning thanked Philip Brandler, director of the Natick Soldier Center, for donating office space to the fitness center.

Members of the work force are quite pleased with this new addition to their quality of life at Natick.

Michael Statkus, an Operations Research Analyst on the Modeling and Analysis team, said, "The new exercise facility is fantastic! With the elliptical ma-



Col. Dorothy Johnson, SSC deputy commander, Barry Williams, SSC garrison manager, and Col. Gwendolyn Boney-Harris, deputy director, Installation Management Agency Northeast Region, cut a ribbon to

chines, treadmills, free weights, and Cybex stations, there are plenty of options for getting a great work-

out. My heartfelt thanks to all those who made it a reality. Well done!"



U.S. Army Soldier Systems Center (SSC) employees work out in their new fitness room.

EUL agreement becomes official

by Yvonne Johnson
APG News

A Memorandum of Agreement to proceed with plans to take development of the Lauderick Creek area of Aberdeen Proving Ground to the next level was officially endorsed during a signing ceremony at Top of the Bay March 9.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, and Aberdeen Proving Ground selected real estate developer APG Development Partners, which includes LCOR Operating Company, LLC and Weston Solutions, Inc. on Feb. 17 to transform approximately 1,300 acres on APG into a state-of-the-art, anti-terrorism and law enforcement training center under the Army's Enhanced Use Leasing, or EUL, program.

Development Partners was named the "successful offeror" in February.

Under the agreement, the company will lease the parcel and develop world-class anti-terrorism law enforcement training facilities, operate and maintain the facilities and provide in-kind consideration to the Army at least equal to the fair market value of the leased assets.

Col. John T. Wright, APG Garrison and deputy installation commander, James Turkel, chief, Army Corps of Engineers, Real Estate Division, and R. William Hard, executive vice president, LCOR Incorporated, affixed their signature to the MOA during the ceremony.

"This is another historic day for Aberdeen Proving Ground," Wright said. "It permits us to look at ways to offer land use leases to developers that will benefit the installation and the surrounding communities."

"On behalf of the company, we are honored to work with the Garrison and APG," Hard said. "We have a strong history of partnering rela-

tionships and we thank you for the opportunity to serve this installation."

Turkel said that the proximity of the proving ground to the Chesapeake Bay, access to major highways and mass transit systems, as well as a supportive surrounding community, enables planners to be "a little more aggressive about utilizing this [EUL] authority."

"This is the second conditional award that has been made in the state, but APG really stands out ahead of the other installations," he said.

"The APG Development Partners put together a strong proposal against strong competitors. We are looking forward to great things from them," Turkel said.

The project concept includes facilities for indoor and outdoor law enforcement training, student lodging, and dining, fitness and recreational amenities.

Honoré invests Windsor as Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army for New York

Playing a Marine in the 1957 movie "The D.I." starring Jack Webb of "Dragnet" fame wasn't much of a stretch for Laurence C. "Chuck" Windsor Jr.

As the 1955 Distinguished Marine Recruit of the Year, Windsor was already very "Semper Fi" by the time Hollywood came calling. So, playing Marine Pvt. Severeign opposite Webb, and serving as press liaison for the Marine Corps on the movie for six months, was pretty nice duty for a hardcore Marine.

Those Hollywood experiences, and his 22 years with the public relations firm Young and Rubicam, Inc., should serve him well as the Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army (CASA) for New York (s).

In ceremonies held today at the Union League Club of New York, Lt. Gen. Russel L. Honoré, commanding general, First U.S. Army, invested Windsor as "the eyes and ears of the Secretary of the Army" for the southern part of New York.



Laurence C. "Chuck" Windsor Jr. receives the oath of investiture as the Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army for New York (south) from Lt. Gen. Russel L. Honoré, commanding general, First U.S. Army, in ceremonies held March 1 in New York City. (U.S. Army photo)

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CDC celebrates Read Across America Week

Story and photo by
Yvonne Johnson, APG News

Parents, service members and staff members at the Aberdeen Proving Ground Child Development Center combined forces to make Read Across America, the annual observance which encourages reading for children, one to remember during two weeks of festivities Feb. 27 to March 10.

Along with members of the Parent Child Care Association, the CDC staff solicited volunteers and organized reading times for their young clients. Normally one week, the activities were extended to two weeks due to the level of participation, said Jennifer Eyet-Kunkel, PCCA president.

"Read Across America is celebrated in honor of Dr. Seuss's birthday on March 2," Eyet-Kunkel said. "This year we decided to schedule readers over two weeks instead of the traditional one week," she added. During Military Week volunteers from the U.S. Army Materiel Operations Division, the National Ground Intelligence Center and the U.S. Marine Corps Detachment volunteered their time to read to children, while parents volunteered the second week. "We were very pleased to have such great participation," Eyet-Kunkel said.

Eileen Campbell, CDC training and curriculum specialist, said that other events highlighting the observance included two parent Read-to-Me activities during which parents read to their infant or toddler nightly then sent in red and white strips to create Cat in the Hat-style hats for



Andrew Williams wears a Cat-in-the-Hat hat along with his native Scottish kilt as he reads the book "Glad Monster Sad Monster: A Book About Feelings" to toddlers in Room 6 of the Aberdeen Child Development Center during the Read Across America salute to Dr. Seuss program March 10. Williams' 3-year old son Wyatt is a member of the class.

the children. In addition, the CDC and PCCA purchased new books for each pre-school and pre-kindergarten classroom and encouraged parents to keep a calendar of minutes that they read to their child to earn free pan pizzas from the Pizza Hut 'Book It!' program during March and April. "This year's program was so successful thanks to our many volunteers," Campbell said.

One volunteer was not much older than the toddlers she came to read to.

"Xiara Long, a first grader and the daughter of Kim and Matt Long of the Directorate of Law Enforcement and Security, captivated the 2-year olds with her expressions and wide eyes," Campbell said. "And, Andrew Williams, who is a native of

Scotland, wore a traditional Scottish kilt when he read to his son Wyatt's class."

Williams, a volunteer facilitator for Army Family Team Building and the husband of Maj. Kate Williams of the National Ground Intelligence Center, spent more than an hour reading the books 'Purple Dragon,' 'Glad Monster Sad Monster' and 'Bombaloo' to the toddlers in Room 6. The children seemed to enjoy the stories as well as Williams' smooth accent and interesting accessories. He said that he was happy to volunteer for the facility which had done so much for his son.

"I've seen him grow so much since he started coming here," Williams said. "This was my chance to

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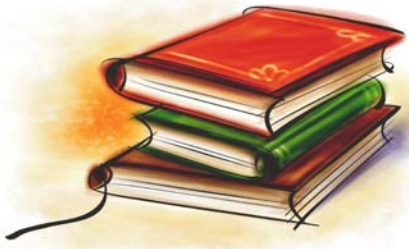
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give something back. My wife stays involved and I try to do the same."

Read Across America

www.nea.org

Approaching its ninth year of sponsoring Read Across America, the National Education Association focuses the country on the importance



of motivating children to read and helping them to master basic skills.

NEA launched the Read Across America program in 1998. The nationwide reading celebration takes place each year on March 2, the birthday of children's author Dr. Seuss, who epitomized a love of learning. Dr. Seuss's use of rhyme makes his books an effective tool for teaching young children the basic skills they need to be successful reader

Area students tour Culinary Arts Competition, learn about military food service careers

*by Amy Clement
Fort Lee Public Affairs Office*

Soldiers and Marines from the Army Center of Excellence, Subsistence conducted tours of the Culinary Arts Competition for more than 500 students March 15 and 16 at the Post Field House.

Many of the youth were amazed as they walked around display tables and observed different types of meals and edible sculptures of art.

"Coming here has changed my mind about the military," said Adreanna Hines, a junior from Southampton County High School. "There are a lot of opportunities in the Army that I hadn't heard about. I didn't know the Army cooked on this level." "Our visit has been fantastic," said Rebecca Browning, a teacher from West End Christian School in Hopewell. "We wanted to bring the kids here, not only to see military members' culinary skills, but also so the kids could see that military people are people just like us and that we need to respect them for what they do."

"I think that a lot of people outside of the military should see this," said Army JROTC Cadet Shel-



ton Seaborn, a junior from Greenville County High School in Emporia. "A lot of people think that all the Army is about is guns, shooting and war.

"They don't realize that there are so many career fields in the military... like this ... it's nice to see the food service career field. I didn't realize they were doing this with food and how much they put their imagination to use," Seaborn said.

"I'm awestruck," said eighth grade home schooler, Virginia Stilwell. "I've seen chefs on TV, but I

didn't know that Soldiers and other military did this. I really liked the ice carving competition. I never knew they used chainsaws to carve ice."

"I am amazed at the level of detail and quality of food," said Amy Stilwell, a home school mother from the Fort Lee Military Home School Program. "I've been around the military, and I think of DFACs [dining facilities] and MREs [Meals Ready to Eat], but this competition brings it to a whole new level for me. The U.S. military is the best fed military in the world."

The Great America Voices Military Base Tour visits, performs at Picatinny Arsenal

By Linda Huff-Franey

PICATINNY ARSENAL, N.J. — Possibly because it isn't marching music, people usually associate opera with something other than the military. Therefore, one does not encounter too many Soldiers who are familiar with the works of Giuseppe Verdi or Giacomo Rossini.

Although many people might not think they are familiar with opera, it has always been popular in the United States and currently can be found in television, commercials and cartoons, as well as popular film soundtracks.

The National Endowment for the Arts is working to educate military audiences about opera and Broadway melodies with The Great American Voices Military Base Tour.

The tour is an initiative to provide admission-free professional performances of opera and Broadway

classics to military members and their families.

On Jan. 18, the Washington National Opera brought the tour to Picatinny service members, their families and community members.

Because the program took place at a local high-school auditorium, the opera company presented two shows — a workshop for high-school students and an evening show to military and community members.

Members of The Washington National Opera's Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program, one of the nation's leading opera training programs, presented a less-formal production for the earlier event to music-program 450 students from two local Rockaway school district high schools. Children of Picatinny service personnel attend Rockaway schools.

In addition to performing, the entertainers interacted with and an-

swered questions from the students to help give the youngsters an idea of the dedication it takes to become professional artists.

The performers said they have degrees from Yale, Carnegie Mellon, Juilliard and other universities and conservatories. They also explained that each artist must audition to be part of the program, which is overseen by Washington National Opera General Director Plácido Domingo.

The formal evening show, which was packed with 1,200 guests, was hosted by Picatinny Garrison Commander Lt. Col. Kerry Skelton and Morris Hills Regional School District Superintendent Dr. Ernest Palestis.

During the 90-minute performance, the auditorium resonated with music from *Die Auberflöte*, *L'elisir d'amore*, *Carmen*, *La Bohème*, *Rigoletto*, *Die Fledermaus*, *La tabernera del Puerto*, *Dona Francisquita*,



Picatinny officials and other community members enjoy the Washington National Opera performance.

(U.S. Army photo by Todd Mozes)

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Susannah, Guys and Dolls, Carousel, the Boys from Syracuse and Candide.

After the event, as with the earlier performance, audience members gladly took advantage of the invitation to meet the artists.

The Great American Voices Military Base Tour links up 24 opera companies with 39 military installations around the country, including Alaska and Hawaii. The tour began in July and is scheduled to end in August.

Remaining performances are scheduled for Fort Knox, Ky., Fort Campbell, Tenn., Fort Benning, Ga., Fort Hood, Texas, Fort Polk, La., Fort



Stewart, Ga., Los Angeles Air Force Base, Calif., Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., Langley Air Force Base, Va., Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Fla., Grand Forks Air Force Base, N.D., Minot Air Force Base, N.D., and Albany Marine Corps Base, Ga.

(Additional information provided by a National Endowment for the Arts and Washington National Opera releases.)

(Left) Washington National Opera members perform before an audience of Picatinny military members and civilians.

(Below) Service members and others mingle with opera company members after the performance.

(U.S. Army photos by Todd Mozes)



Camp A.P. Hill:

Daughter of wartime commander donates photos, memories from the post's past

by Jeremy Heckler

Fort A.P. Hill Public Affairs

As time passes, it is the small photos and mementos that help us keep the links to the past and prevent memories from fading out of sight. One person's donation of her collection of photos and mementos is helping Fort A.P. Hill keep its link to the past.

Beulah M. Sommer, whose father, Lt. Col. Elmer F. Munshower, served as the installation's commander during World War II, donated more than 140 photographs and other mementos to the post last September.

Munshower, served in the 29th Division as a member of the Maryland National Guard when his unit was called up in February 1941. He was 57 when he was called to active duty and had served in the First World War as a company and battalion commander. He assumed command of Fort A.P. Hill on Dec. 20, 1941, 13 days after the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Sommer said her father was meticulous and organized several scrapbooks. She donated the scrapbook he created of his four years here. The photographs cover a wide range of activities here as well as in Bowling Green.

The pictures themselves add to the memories of Sommer, now 82, who was a student at Mary Washington College during the war. Sommer and her mother moved down to Fredericksburg from Maryland to be close to her father.

She said she would drive in from Fredericksburg and visit her father at what is now the Lodge. It served as Munshower's on-post home as well as the officer's club. Stepping onto



Camp A.P. Hill, as it was then known, was stepping onto a whole new world for her.

"I was kind of awed by the largeness of the place," said Sommer. "There were so many important things going on."

She said coming on post made her swell with pride and patriotism that many Americans shared.

"It made me feel patriotic, but everyone did," said Sommer. "I felt safe."



Like many Americans, the war came in bits and pieces from newspaper, news reel and radio reports.

"We weren't too aware of what was going on," said Sommer. "I had an isolated experience."

She said she no real relationships during the time and didn't have the connection that many had when their boyfriend or husband went off to war. Her connection with the troops came on those days she came through the camp's gates.

She said she often would bring her girlfriends onto post and they would see all the things that a World War II training post had to offer.

They would often get to drive around in a Jeep. Sommer even had the opportunity to take the controls of a tank.

"One time I came out and I got to drive a tank and the man who directed me said, 'Run over that tree,'" she said with laughter.

For years afterward she carried the tank license that the unit made for her.

The Soldiers on Camp A.P. Hill even made brief appearances on the campus of Mary Washington College, a college that was for women only at that time.

"When I was at Mary Washington the dean there would call my father and ask if they could send a few of the boys over for a dance," said Sommer.

The Soldiers would come to the dance and both sexes would stand in lines at opposite sides of the hall and pair up.

Sommer said being the garrison commander was one of the highlights of her father's life.

"Father just loved that job," said Sommer.

The memories Munshower kept of the post were almost lost due to spring cleaning. Sommer said she had those pictures as well as other keepsakes from her father's collection for years and she thought of just throwing them out. She researched the post on the internet and donated them last year because she wanted to help preserve the post's history.

"I thought that somebody will want these pictures because they form a part of Fort A.P. Hill's history," said Sommer. "It was just a desire to put them where they belong."

The 'Great War' ended more than 50 years ago, but this Petersburg man still lives it

by T. Anthony Bell
Fort Lee Traveller

Edward Farley is retired.

His kids have moved away.

His wife lives up north.

The 81-year-old former school teacher doesn't do much anymore. He wakes in the morning, reads the papers, and visits his favorite barber shop. He often reflects upon his life — a bittersweet journey marked by achievement, hope and tragedy — with the idea of making sense of decisions, actions and events.

War is among the events that he has pondered recently — war today in Iraq and Afghanistan and as he experienced it in World War II.

"I didn't realize that I would live this long to see so many other wars," the Petersburg native said. "And people getting killed."

It's the killing that bothers Farley.

"Sometimes, I look in the paper and they put pictures of Soldiers killed in Iraq and I look up to see how young they are. It reminds me of World War II on that beach."

Farley is a gray-haired, coffee-colored black man with skin smooth enough to contradict his age and wit sharp enough to put most anyone at ease. The grandson of a former slave and the son of an over-achieving father, Farley attended Petersburg schools until he was 16. That's when his father enrolled him in St. Emma's catholic military school in Rock Castle, 40 miles west of Richmond.

The discipline and military skills he learned there would serve him well in the future.

"I was there for two years and



from there went directly into the Army," he said.

That was 1941. Farley's transition was so effortless and skills so sharp that superiors expeditiously promoted him to staff sergeant. He was a 19-year-old noncommissioned officer in charge of 50 men, some old enough to be his father.

"Some were the same age (as he), but they gave me all the respect I ever wanted," he said.

Farley's unit, the 463rd Amphibious Truck Company, was an all-black transportation outfit in a segregated Army.

"Living in the South all of my life, segregation was an everyday affair," he said. "Naturally, you have to adjust to it because there were no alternatives."

The unit's three platoons trained

in Louisiana, South Carolina and Pennsylvania. In Pennsylvania, they learned how to operate a DUKW (pronounced "duck"). It was a two-man cargo vehicle about the size of a speedboat and capable of operating on land and sea.

It wasn't long after training that the unit was called upon to support the Allied invasion at Omaha Beach in Normandy, France. Suddenly, Farley found himself and his platoon moving supplies in the DUKWs from ship to shore amidst small-arms fire and floating corpses. The infamous days of June 6-7, 1944 and the brutal assault on German-occupied higher ground are stuck in Farley's consciousness.

"I will never forget that hill," he said, "so many men shot down trying to get over that hill."

That's not all he will never forget. Farley lost two of his platoon members but not by gunfire. Grady Hughes and Burrell Parnell lost their lives as a result of drowning. Parnell, a Soldier nearly 20 years older than Farley, was met by rising waters as the DUKW approached shore. He was engulfed by the waves.

"My mind goes back to Pennsylvania," said Farley of the training there. "...On one occasion I saw Burrell Parnell playing and laughing in the water and not paying attention to the instruction.

"He just laughed, but by the way he died, had he learned how to swim, it may not have happened. He died because he could not swim. I partly blame myself for that."

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Hughes, a Soldier about the same age as Farley, panicked when the DUKW he was on began to sink in shallow water.

"All he had to do was stay on the DUKW," said Farley, "but he panicked and he couldn't even swim. He dived off in about 10 feet of water and drowned."

Farley offers that it wasn't his fault they died, and that he isn't haunted by their deaths as much as how they died. He wished the Soldiers had paid more attention during the instruction and wished they received better training.

"First of all we were not told why we had to learn to swim," he said of the Pennsylvania training. "The need to swim was never emphasized."

Fifty years have passed and Farley is torn by the Soldiers' loss. He's raised four kids, toiled 30 years in classrooms and led 50 Soldiers into the dangerous shoreline at Omaha, yet he's reduced to tears at the thought of that war.

"Losing two of my men on that beach," he said, his voice trem-

bling, his eyes glazed, "it will never go away."

Farley uses the therapy of poetry to cope with his tragic past. He wrote this piece as a tribute to his comrades:

I will always remember two men in my platoon. Burrell Parnell and Grady Hughes were their names. I think about them often. And often I am not the same.

They died for a noble cause. And the freedom to always be. Yet they could not go home and in certain places, buy a cup of tea."

Those thoughts speak of the racial irony Farley and his Soldiers faced against the prospect of war. Nonetheless, they served and sacrificed. Farley himself was recalled to serve during the Korean War. He likes to boast that he's had the honor of serving in both a segregated and integrated Army and how the latter made the institution better.

"That was a wonderful transition," said Farley of the Army's integration in 1948. "I think back sometimes how times can change. There is hope. There's always hope."

Former post commander Lt. Gen. Billy K. Solomon is a symbol of

Farley's hope. He met the black logistics officer two years ago.

"Never in my life did I meet a black general," said Farley. "He had three stars. Oh, I felt like crying. What a wonderful man. I was so impressed with him — his character, his grace."

Farley keeps handy a picture of himself and Solomon, the two of them smiling and shaking hands. He doesn't have any pictures of himself and any of the members of the 463rd.

He has tried over the years to keep in contact with some of them, but it has been difficult. Many of them have died.

"I guess if we had a reunion, I doubt half (of) them would appear," said Farley.

For now Farley is the face of his old unit, the band of brothers that was called upon to do a job and did it with honor and dignity. He needs them now just as much as the unit ever needed him.

"Sometimes we can try to forget the past, but the past can never forget us," he said philosophically. "They were wonderful men. Magnificent. We were just like a family."

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In his remarks, Honoré thanked the people of New York for their help during Hurricane Katrina and he reminded the audience that a disaster the magnitude of Katrina could bring any city to a standstill.

"Preparation and planning at the local level are key to responding to a disaster," Honoré said. "You can't be exchanging business cards at the disaster site."

Honoré also said the state of the Army is strong.

"The Army doesn't have a recruiting problem, America does," Honoré stated. I need each of you to go out into your local community and talk up the Army to our young men and women."

As a public relations and marketing professional, Windsor should have no trouble "talking the talk and walking the walk."

As a CASA, Windsor said he would use his position to highlight the needs of families of Soldiers serving in our nation's conflicts.

Laurence C. "Chuck" Windsor Jr. retired from Young and Rubicam, Inc. in 2000 after 22 years as a Senior Vice President and Director of Promotion. During his final 14 years he was a member of the senior staff managing the U.S. Army advertising account. His 40-year communications career includes senior management positions with Hearst Magazines, Conover-Mast Productions, Family Weekly Magazine and Time, Inc.

Windsor serves on the Board of Governors of the West Point Society

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Soldier Support

Suggestion saves missile gyros, time and big bucks

by Anthony Ricchiazzi
Tobyhanna Public Affairs Office

Two Tobyhanna electronics mechanics modified a rate sensor to use as a testing device for AGM-65 Maverick missile gyros that will save nearly \$360,000 per year and hundreds of gyros.

Kevin Ellis and Ron Hazlett, Maverick Missile Branch, knew there had to be a better way to test gyros that were part of the Maverick guidance and control unit's Rate Sensor. The branch is part of the Tactical Missile Division.

The AGM-65 Maverick is a tactical, air-to-surface guided missile used against a wide range of tactical targets, including armor, air defenses, ships, transportation equipment and fuel storage facilities.

There are three gyros and two accelerometers in a Rate Sensor. The gyros give directional information and the accelerometers give velocity. Hazlett repairs and tests the sensors, which fail due to one or two bad gyros.

"When that happens, the rate sensor was stored to be used in a training missile," Ellis said. "Working gyros are not needed in the sensors for that, but each sensor has one or two good gyros."

The idea to use the failed sensor for training purposes and not salvage the gyros was because of the time and difficulty to remove one or two of them. To repair other sensors, Hazlett had to test stored sensors for good gyros, which was very time consuming.

"He would have to test multiple gyro assemblies to find good gyros,"



Ron Hazlett (left) and Kevin Ellis modified a Rate Sensor to use as a testing device for Maverick missile gyros that will save nearly \$360,000 per year and hundreds of gyros. They are electronics mechanics in Tobyhanna Army Depot's Tactical Missile Division. (U.S. Army photo)

Ellis said. "Sometimes it would take all day for him to repair a single rate sensor."

Ellis, who was repairing and testing Maverick circuit cards, had been assisting Hazlett and the two began looking for a more efficient process last December.

"We brainstormed and came up with a couple of different designs for a rate sensor that would act as a gyro test bed," Hazlett said.

"Our initial design used alligator clips to connect the gyros, but they were too large and would rub against the Rate Sensor Table plate and cause the assembly to short out, so we switched to J-hook jumper clips with color coded wires," Ellis said.

"We also fabricated a plastic shield as an insulator to prevent the J-hooks from touching the plate," Hazlett said.

A Rate Sensor is mounted on a Rate Sensor Table, which spins the sensor in different directions during the testing process.

With the gyro test bed they could test individual gyros in minutes. "Hazlett went from hours to about 10 minutes to install and test two gyros," Ellis said.

Ellis calculated that salvaging one to two gyros per unit would save around \$360,000 per year in parts alone.

"It took about three weeks to come up with a final design and Kevin convinced me to submit it as a suggestion," Hazlett said. "I thought it would take months for the suggestion to go through, but it was approved in a couple of weeks."

The suggestion was adopted in January and Hazlett and Ellis were awarded about \$4,990.

Bradley gyro test equipment back online

by Anthony Ricchiazzi
Tobyhanna Public Affairs Office

Tobyhanna engineers did what others said couldn't be done when the computer for the only Bradley gyro test station here burned, literally.

Gyros that provide gun and turret stabilization for the Bradley Fighting Vehicle have been tested for six years by technicians in the depot's Airborne Communications/Instrument Branch using a computer that drives test equipment. The branch is part of the Command, Control and Computers/Avionics Directorate.

"The computer controls the testing operation and has two hard drives. One hard drive fried so badly that it scorched the other hard drive," said Joseph Gresh, an electronics mechanic. "Since we can't repair that kind of equipment, we called the original contractor for help."

The contractor's assessment called for at least a two-month wait to get the system back online, said Michael Miller, branch chief. "And then it would have to be tested and OK'd by our quality control personnel," he added.

Engineers from the Production Engineering Directorate (PED) recommended replacing the hard drives and installing software that performed the same functions, but not exactly the same way. Rather than wait two or more months, depot engineers proceeded with their solution.

Ricky Saunders and Ken Stuccio, both electronics engineers in PED's C3/Avionics Support Division, responded.

"We could see that the hard drives were physically burned, so Paul



Joseph Gresh tests a Bradley Fighting Vehicle gun turret gyro, seen on the left, at Tobyhanna Army Depot. Depot engineers repaired the computer that controls the testing operation after one of its hard drives short circuited so badly it burned its second hard drive. Gresh is an electronics mechanic in the depot's Command, Control and Computers/Avionics Directorate. (U.S. Army photo)

Covert configured a new hard drive to replace both. We installed them and loaded software that was similar to the original," Saunders said. "It has minor differences from the original software in how it communicates with the test equipment."

Covert is an information technology specialist in PED's Mission Software Division

Ed Dupre, computer engineer, Mission Software Division; David Zahorsky, electronics engineer, PED Test Program Development Division; and Robert Muha, information technology specialist,

Mission Software Division; assisted in configuring the software so it functions like the original, which put the test station back online in three weeks.

"Getting the computer to communicate with the test equipment is what took the most time," Saunders said.

Once the computer was repaired, Covert and Muha made a copy of it to use in case it went down again.

"There are two copies now, one in our shop and one in the repository," Miller said.

The repository is the central location where test software and related components are stored and their configuration maintained. Basically it's like a library for software and related components.

Miller pointed out that their workload has increased recently and Gresh and the other technicians, Don Cragle and Ed Earley, are scheduled to test and repair about 400 gyros this year.

"We're also cross training other technicians in this mission," he said.

Miller and Gresh said they repair gyro circuit cards and noted that no gyro they have repaired has come back because of poor repair quality.

RDECOM engineer saves Army \$10 million with suggestion

by *Trinace Johnson*
RDECOM

A U.S. Army electronics engineer saved the government \$10 million with his suggestion to improve existing design tools and libraries for an Army program.

Jerry Dickson of the Aviation and Missile Research, Development and Engineering Center, Redstone Arsenal, Ala., was named the Department of the Army 2005 Civilian Suggester of the Year.

Dickson led a design effort to overcome a technical roadblock that endangered a \$250 million program.

His efforts resulted in a new drop-in-power amplifier module for the successful completion of the ongoing \$250 million continuing development contract and upcoming flight test program of the Brilliant Anti-Tank Pre-Planned Product Improvement. The BATP3I is used as a homing device on a specific target's acoustic, thermal and millimeter wave radar signatures.

Dickson also developed the necessary manufacturing processes and

techniques to ensure successful delivery of the amplifier module.

He successfully completed delivery of 86 fully tested and qualified power amplifier modules on schedule and did it at nearly \$1 million under cost.

"I was completely surprised by the selection," Dickson said. "It was a team endeavor from start to finish. Personnel from Fort Monmouth [N. J.] supported me relentlessly as did my contracting officer. Perhaps the thing that I am proudest of is the support that I got from the project office... they stuck with me all the way," he said.

Dickson has 18 years of civil service with the government, and four years of military experience. He has three U.S. patents and has authored more than 40 publications and technical reports.

Dickson has performed pioneering work in the application of pseudomorphic high electron mobility transistors low noise amplifiers, image reject mixers and power amplifiers. Dickson developed the first active W-band receiver that employed a

low-noise amplifier with an image rejection mixer and the first W-band MMIC power amplifier module. He conceived and implemented a Manufacturing Technology project that saved the Longbow Program over \$40 million on the RF transmitter and receiver.

He graduated with honors with a Bachelor of Science Degree in electrical engineering from Memphis State University. Dickson is presently attending the University of Alabama in Huntsville, working on his master's degree in aeronautical engineering with a concentration in missile systems engineering.

AMRDEC is part of the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command headquartered at Aberdeen Proving Ground.

RDECOM gets technology out of the laboratories and puts it into the hands of Warfighters as quickly as possible. More information on the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command can be found at www.rdecom.army.mil.

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of New York and on the advisory board of the Soldiers', Sailors', Marines' and Airmen's Club.

He serves on the President's Council of Phoenix House, and is a former Governor, Vice President and Chairman for Public Affairs of the Union League Club of New York.

Windsor is a Distinguished Graduate of St. John's Northwestern

Military Academy in Delafield, Wisc., and attended Grinnell College where he was a Distinguished Air Force ROTC cadet, and the United States Military Academy at West Point, N.Y.

Windsor is married to Ruth L. Windsor. They have two children; son, Ted, and daughter, Patience.

Civilian Aides to the Secretary of the Army are business and community leaders selected by the Secretary to

advise and support Army leaders across the country. Each CASA brings to the position an interest in the Army, a high degree of business and civic leadership and the ability to influence the public.

Civilian Aides support the Army by talking with their business and civic colleagues, meeting with the media to discuss Army programs and participating in Army-sponsored events in their local communities.

Picatinny Commissary nabs top-store title

Picatinny Public Affairs Office

The Picatinny Commissary has been selected best small commissary in the Defense Commissary Agency East 2005 competition.

In addition, Picatinny took top places in the Best Meat Department and Best Customer Service Department small-commissary categories.

Criteria used in judging at region level included formal inventories, unit-cost variances compared to targets, sales growth, Commissary Customer Service Survey scores and other statistical data.

Other factors, such as sanitation, Inspector General scores and DeCA senior-leadership visits were also taken into consideration.

"After practically scrutinizing our finest stores under a microscope, these emerge as truly world class," said DeCA East Director Bonnie Kanitz.

"Their employees' talent, hard work and dedication to superior customer service enhance the value of the commissary benefit for all military members, retirees and their fami-



Shoppers purchase grocery items at the best small commissary in the Defense Commissary Agency East. (Photo by Todd Mozes)

lies," she said. "I applaud each of these DeCA East stars for their exceptional performance last year."

Picatinny now moves on to the Best Commissary Awards competition.

It will compete against other small commissaries for the Richard M. Paget Award, named in memory

of a statesman who protected the commissary benefit and championed quality-of-life issues for military personnel and their families.

During worldwide evaluation this year, an agency team will visit each store unannounced to examine store operations.

The Sky's the Limit

Stevland McAllister prepares a planned position indicator (PPI) for mechanical inspection prior to testing and installation into an AN/TPS-75 Mobile Tactical Radar System. The indicator is a visual interface between the TPS-75 and the technician, allowing 360 degree surveillance of the sky. The radar system is a mobile, tactical radar system capable of providing long-range radar azimuth, range and height information along with identification friend or foe capability for operations and control of tactical aircraft. McAllister is an electronics mechanic

in the Surveillance Systems Division; Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Directorate.

Tobyhanna Army Depot is the Defense Department's largest center for the repair, overhaul and fabrication

of a wide variety of electronics systems and components, from tactical field radios to the ground terminals for the defense satellite communications network. Tobyhanna's missions support all branches of the Armed Forces.

About 4,400 personnel are employed at Tobyhanna, which is located in the Pocono Mountains of northeastern Pennsylvania.

Tobyhanna Army Depot is part of the C-E LCMC. Headquartered at Fort Monmouth, N.J., C-E LCMC's mission is to research, develop, acquire, field and sustain communications, command, control computer, intelligence, electronic warfare and sensors capabilities for the Armed Forces.



New projects to provide urban warfare training

by *Jeremy Heckler*

Fort A.P. Hill Public Affairs

A small city will soon rise from a sizable piece of land not far from the northern end of Fort A.P. Hill's assault landing zone. The city will have no mayor, no post office and no citizens. It will be home to warriors looking to hone their skills.

Construction began on the Combined Arms Collective Training Facility or CACTF earlier this month.

Over the next two years the facility will steadily rise and be part of a complex designed to provide a realistic urban environment in which to train.

"The facility is one aspect of the Army's overall program to train for military operations on urbanized terrain," said Henry Hanrahan, Directorate of Plans, Training Mobilization and Security.

Hanrahan said research has proven that urban terrain is one of the most difficult places for an army to fight. He cited Somalia, where members of the Army Rangers and the 10th Mountain Division suffered significant casualties when they attempted to seize an individual in Mogadishu, as an example.

Hanrahan said while the Soldiers distinguished themselves for their toughness and heroism, it made the Army rethink its ideas on urban warfare. The new ideas are being incorporated on Fort A.P. Hill.

"We have nothing that is like the CACTF right now," said Hanrahan. "The closest thing we have is Combat Village."

The new facility will be a giant improvement from Combat Village.

Hanrahan said the plywood and pole Combat Village was meant to resemble a Third World village. It has none of the cameras or monitoring equipment the new CACTF will have.

The nearly \$26 million CACTF complex also includes an urban assault course, breach facility and a live-

fire shoot house to provide warriors an opportunity to perfect urban operations skills prior to deployment.

"The urban assault course, breach facility and shoot house are co-located," said Hanrahan. "The units will go there first before going to the CACTF."

The shoot house, breach facility and urban assault course will be completed by next year.

The CACTF facility will take an additional year to complete in order to equip it with sensors and video cameras.

The initial construction of 10 buildings this year will lay the groundwork for training. A separate building is designed for after-action reviews.

Hanrahan said CACTF was put on the fast track with the help of Sen. John Warner of Virginia. Originally the project was to be started in 2007 and wouldn't be completed in 2010.

"Senator Warner looked into the master range plan and moved up the funding by two years so that we can start construction this year," said Hanrahan.

Plans are in the works to bring the facility up to the 25 buildings complex that is currently the Army standard.

Meanwhile, Fort A.P. Hill is working on a separate project to build a smaller, "modular" urban training facility flexible enough to handle different types of missions.

"It will be a bridge facility and provide additional capability to the installation because we are tying it directly into the assault landing zone," said Hanrahan.

He said the modular site will appeal to units with airfield seizure and security missions and provides those units with additional locations to train.

The modular facility is due to be completed by fall.

Regional People

Carlisle Barracks celebrates accomplishments of women

By Melissa Stahl,
Carlisle Public Affairs Office

"Become the change you want to see, those are words I live by," Oprah Winfrey has often said. Women who put these words into action such as Sandra Day O'Connor, Oprah Winfrey and Maya Angelou were highlighted last week during Carlisle Barracks observance of Women's History Month, March 10, in Reynolds Theatre.

The Women's History Month Observance titled, *Women: Builders of Communities and Dreams* kicked off on a celebratory note when Sgt. 1st Class Kingsley Thomas said, "Today, it's not a rarity to see a female ambassador, a senior NCO, etc. The opportunities are great."

"You have an opportunity to make a difference," said guest speaker, Brig. Gen. Mari Eder, Army Deputy Chief of Public Affairs.

Eder recently spent time abroad in places where women are treated differently than in the United States.

"In these countries I often felt I was invisible. In one country, I was allowed to be an *honorary man*. This honorary position made it possible for me to be in the room or among important men. In the United States we [women] truly have an abundance of opportunity," said Eder.



Becky Wriggle, USAWC student, presents Brig. Gen. Mari Eder, Army Deputy Chief of Public Affairs, with a memento after speaking at the Carlisle Barracks celebration of Women's History Month, March 10, in Reynolds Theatre.
(Photo by Sgt. David Hopkins)

Eder told stories of great women she has known and of the sacrifices they have made and are making in order to make a difference in the world.

"We need to remember stories of everyday people making a difference here and now. Think of all of those at home and in places such as Iraq, families and Army spouses. We all answer our own call of duty in our own way", said Eder.

Women's History month celebrates its 26th birthday this year. In 1980, President Carter called on the people of the United States to remember the contributions of women. Then, seven years later, Congress and President Reagan declared the entire month of March as Women's History Month. The goal was to ensure that

the multitude of ways in which women have changed America would be included in our children's education.

Picatinny employee wins \$4K award for cost-savings idea

By Linda Huff-Franey
and Frank Misurelli, *The Voice*

According to one Picatinny employee, she used to have one of the most monotonous jobs to be found anywhere at Picatinny. But that didn't stop her from finding inspiration to

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improve her task to not only benefit the Army, but to also benefit her bank account.

Lark Berhman, an explosives test operator, used to separate more than a half-million spent bullet casings from their links by hand using a hand-held magnetizer.

The work wasn't just boring, it was back-breaking, she said. But occasionally, the discovery of a live bullet lived things up, although only momentarily, she said.

"I had to find a better way to do this," said Berhman. So, after she came up with a good idea, she submitted it to the Army Suggestion Program.

Then the Internal Review and Audit compliance Office evaluated and validated it. As a result, Berhman saved the Army \$77,500 (first-year net-dollar value), and she received a \$4,025 award via her office, the Armament Technology Facility, for the adopted suggestion.

"The idea is simple," said Berhman, who suggested separating brass and links automatically, rather than the manual method that was being used.

She found a manufacturer of magnetic industrial separators to construct the device to separate the metals from each other, and then drop the fired brass bullet casings and steel links into separate containers at the bottom of the machine, she said. She calls the device the Casing and Link Extractor Machine, or just "CLEM."

The CLEM unit breaks the separation and inspection operations



Lark Berhman, an explosives test operator, used to separate more than a half-million spent bullet casings from their links by hand using a hand-held magnetizer. (U.S. Army photo)

into two separate actions, which raises the quality level of finding any live rounds while doing the inspection process before introducing the casings and links mixture into the actual CLEM unit.

It was determined that the use of the CLEM unit did the casings and links separation in 10 to 25 percent of the time compared to doing the same operation through the manual hand-magnetizer method.

Also, the handling of limited casings and links as it is fed into the CLEM unit reduces the overall weight that is going through the separation process, which relieves the considerable strain on the operator. Manual separation and inspection required lifting up to 45 pounds of

crated links and casings to perform the separation and inspection tasks.

"It is an extreme honor to have been recognized by my peers for my suggestion submission," she said. "I am very proud of the outcome with this machine, and I am happy that I could introduce a valuable tool that has proven ... to be a great asset to the mission of Picatinny, the U.S. Army and the Department of Defense."

She said, "I was able to take an idea that I thought would greatly improve the tedious task of manual brass and link separation and turn it into a time-savings and streamlined process."

Army Major expands family with adoption of Russian children

*by Mindy Campbell
Fort Lee Traveller*

Growing up as one of the youngest of nine children, Maj. Jim Crowley's childhood was packed from sports events to sibling rivalries.

"We didn't have all the material things, but I couldn't have asked for a better childhood," said Crowley, of Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 23rd Quartermaster Brigade.

The great experience led the Pennsylvania native to have two goals in life.

"There are two things I knew I wanted to be when I grew up: I wanted to be an officer in the Army, and I wanted to be a dad," said Crowley.

Years later, the officer now has both. In December, Crowley and his wife, Kelly, adopted three Russian children - siblings to their first adopted son. Now they have eight children - ranging in age from 5 to 11.

"In my family we had nine kids spread out over 16 years," he said. "Now we have eight spread out over six years."

The Journey

Each year, between 50,000 and 130,000 children are adopted in the states. Another 15,000 - 20,000 foreign adoptions are conducted each year, according to statistics from Army One Source.

For Crowley and his wife, adoption has always been an option.

"We talked about adoption for a long time," said Crowley, who tried to adopt a Bulgarian boy when they were stationed in Germany. Unfortunately, that agreement fell through at the last minute, and the family's adoption plans were put on hold when the family changed duty stations and moved to Australia.

When the family returned to America, they once again began looking into a foreign adoption.

"We knew we wanted siblings," he said. "Coming from another country, if they had a sibling with them then they would have a link with someone they understood."

An international adoption has become more popular as the number of children available in the United States has decreased, states the Department of State Web site. However, the availability of children from a particular country depends on the laws and social and economic conditions of that country.

In 2005, most of the foreign adoptions came from mainland China, where Americans adopted almost 8,000 children. Russia, Guatemala, South Korea and the Ukraine rounded out the top five countries, Department of State statistics show.

The Crowleys began looking into adopting a child from Russia. Through one agency, the Crowleys were sent a picture of Will, whose arm had been amputated due to an infection.

"I fell in love with him immediately," he said.

Even though the Crowleys were told Will didn't have any siblings, they decided to pursue adopting him.

"I knew we wanted siblings, but I thought this was going to be enough of a challenge," he said.

When adopting a child from Russia, prospective parents have to make two trips to the country - the first to meet the child and the second to appear before the court and to bring the child home.

When the couple landed in Russia, they asked again about siblings. This time, however, they were told Will had two sisters and a brother. In what they saw as a sign from God, Will and his siblings' ages matched exactly the Crowleys biological children's ages: 11, 9, 7, and 5.

So they journeyed further into Russia and into southern Siberia, to the town of Kiselevsk in the Kemerovo Region. The town of Kise-

levsk has three orphanages in the town. One facility, which holds about 60 children, is the baby home which houses infants through 4 years old. The other two are for children ages 5 to 18. There are about 260 children in each of these homes.

Will and his brother and sisters had been separated when they were placed into the orphanages; Will went to the baby home while the older siblings went to the children's home.

The Russian orphanages are crowded and don't have much money, said Crowley. There are about 10-12 beds in each room with two children sleeping in each bed. The children don't get a lot of fruits or vegetables and only get candy once a year at Christmas.

"The orphanages there try to do the best they can with what they have," he said.

When the Crowleys found out Will had siblings, they weren't sure what they were going to do, but they knew they had to meet the children.

"When we met the children we decided we wanted to do this," he said. "We asked ourselves 'Can we do this? Are we prepared to do this?'" he said. "It really came down to the fact that we are going to handle it. The Lord is going to provide. We are going to make it happen. It is really the right thing to do."

In addition, the Crowleys didn't want Will to be let down.

"I didn't want three to four years from now when Will understands what is going on to say 'I had two sisters and a brother over there. You left them over there and didn't adopt them.'"

So, the Crowleys decided to adopt all of them, but they had a decision to make.

"We could wait and adopt all four together or adopt Will and work on adopting the others," he said.

In the end, they decided to go ahead and adopt Will, a process

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which took about six months. They figured adopting Will's siblings would be quicker the second time around.

Starting a New Life

Unfortunately, things didn't happen as quickly for the remaining siblings. After two long years, Crowley and his wife returned to Russia to make the final appearance before the courts and bring home their three children.

For Crowley and Kelly, it has been an adventure to watch the children experience many things for the first time.

"We took them on their first plane ride," said Crowley. "These children had barely been in a car, let alone in a plane flying for hours and hours."

The children, who only had one plastic grocery-sized bag of their personal possessions for the three of them, were fascinated by many of the things Americans take for granted such as soda and ice cubes.

"We gave them a can of Coke, and they had never seen one before," he said. "Then we gave them a glass filled with ice cubes. They had never seen an ice cube before. They sat there poking at the ice cubes. How do you even comprehend that if you have never seen that before?"

All this and integrating the two different sets of siblings was done with the additional difficulty of the language barrier.

The children didn't speak any English, and the Crowleys only knew a few basic Russian phrases.

"You just do it," Crowley said. "You do a lot of sign language."

Within a few days of their arrival to their new home, the new Crowleys started elementary school and an English-as-a-Second Language program.

"We honestly couldn't have asked for a better integration period," he said.

To make a family of 10 run smoothly, there has to be a lot of structure, Crowley said.

Each child has his or her own cubby and supplies in the bathroom, each has their own color-coded chair at a new, bigger table and a seating chart is strictly enforced in the 15-seat van.

"You have to make decisions on what is going to be important," he said. "If you walk into our house, it's about as lived-in as a house gets. You are not going to be able to come in and do a white glove test. You have to prioritize and teach the kids some responsibility. Kids are very understanding for the most part."

After just a few months, everyone is getting along really well, Crowley said. And just like among ordinary siblings, there is the occasional personality conflict.

"We went into it realistically saying it wasn't going to be perfect," he said.

Military and Adoption

Adopting four children while continuing to work as an Army officer has been a unique blessing and challenge for Crowley.

"Everyone has been accommodating as you can possibly get," said Crowley. Co-workers pitched in and donated items to help make the new Crowleys have a wonderful first Christmas in America.

However, he recently came down on orders for Fort Hood, Texas. From there, he will deploy to Iraq in August.

Crowley and his wife are now grappling with whether to move the family to Texas before he deploys or to leave them here in Chester until his deployment is done.

Many people may question whether the military and adoption are a good fit. Traditionally, adoption wasn't easy for those in the service. However in the 90's, new research found there were many benefits of placing children within military families. The research found that military families offered ethnic diversity, family structure and a military support network.

The diversity within the military exceeds that of the general population. According to the 2000 census,

minorities account for about 29 percent of the total U.S. population. Statistics from the Military Family Resource Center identifies more than one-third of the active-duty military are minority. Given the overrepresentation of minority children within the U.S. child welfare system, many view the military as a great resource for waiting children.

The research showed that the structured life of many military families can also benefit children who have not had much structure in their lives or for those who suffer from Attention Deficit Disorder, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder and Attachment Disorder.

Military installations also have a built-in support network for military families. Family benefits include adoption reimbursement, Exceptional Family Members programs and the New Parent Support programs.

Military families qualify for up to \$2,000 per child (or \$5,000 per year) for expenses, according to Department of Defense regulations.

Military families also qualify for a tax benefit for up to \$10,000.

Crowley said since adopting his children, he has found there is a whole network of support.

"I was absolutely amazed at the number of people who have adopted," Crowley said. "You don't realize how many until you start talking about it or you do it."

Crowley attributes a lot of their family's success to his wife.

"She put all her energy, heart and soul into this adoption," he said. "She read every single book about adoption. She's amazing. I don't know how she does it."

They also attribute some of their success to the support of their friends and church.

"It has been a wonderful experience," he said. "It is absolutely the right thing to do. Who knows, when the kids are a little older and are on their way, maybe we will even adopt again."

For details about military adoption, visit the National Adoption Information Clearinghouse at <http://naic.acf.hhs.gov>, www.militaryadoption.com or the U.S. Department of State's Web site at http://travel.state.gov/family/adoption/adoption_485.html.

RegionRoundUp

Leadership management graduates learning Lean Six Sigma

*Lt. Col. Bill Davisson
Army Management Staff College*

Forty-one students from the Sustaining Base Leadership Management-Resident Class 06-01 successfully completed Lean Six Sigma Yellow Belt Certification on March 27 and 28. The initiative to get Lean Six Sigma into the SBLM curriculum is based on the great success of Lean Six Sigma implementation in Army organizations. The AMSC Commandant, Col. Aaron B. Hayes, decided this would be a great addition to the SBLM curriculum and gave the go-ahead for the inclusion of Lean Six Sigma in SBLM Resident Class 06-01.

VPMEP, in conjunction with George Group Consulting, LLC, conducted a two-day Yellow Belt Certification workshop with four instructors. The workshop focused primarily on Lean Six Sigma principles and numerous hands-on Lean Six Sigma Define, Measure, Analyze, Improve, and Control Simulations.

"Lean Six Sigma is a big push in the Army," said 06-01 graduate Al Majewski, from the U.S. Army Combined Army Support Command at Fort Lee. "Our organization is a white-collar organization, but we have many things that we can streamline to be more efficient and effective. That's why I wanted to be involved in this educational opportunity...to learn more about it. I definitely plan on using this to streamline our processes and get our metrics in place."

"This is the wave of the future in the Army," said graduate Bob Vogt, Morale, Welfare and Recreation Director at Torii Station, Japan. "MWR is a financially-driven business based operation, and Lean Six Sigma is set up to improve financial performance. I will be going back and implementing these techniques to improve our business operations. With the knowledge I've received in this session, as well as some previous training, I can get the Lean Six Sigma process started."

"This is a good thing to continue for future classes since the Army has been directed to carry on and move forward with Lean Six Sigma" said Kirk Gordon, IMA Southwest Region, Fort Sam Houston, Texas. This class provides us with enough knowledge and understanding of what Lean Six Sigma is all about to take back to our commands and come up with an implementation plan."

Based on the Army leadership's guidance on implementation of Lean Six Sigma, it will be a permanent part of the SBLM curriculum in the future.

FAST training can help Soldiers with their careers

*By Julia LeDoux,
Fort Belvoir Eagle*

Functional Academic Skills Training can help Soldiers put their military careers on the FAST track.

The program helps Soldiers raise their General Technical score by providing them with on-duty instruction in math, word knowledge and

paragraph comprehension, said Joyce Peterson of the Barden Education Center. High GT scores are required before Soldiers will be considered for certain military occupational specialties.

"That's the main thing this course does," Peterson says. "It allows Soldiers to change their MOSs."

Soldiers interested in attending FAST class must first contact Peterson for counseling and for an appointment to take the Test of Adult Basic Education. If the Soldier is found to be eligible to attend FAST class, he is then provided with documentation for the next available class and paperwork that requires approval from his commander or supervisor. A seat is reserved for the Soldier in FAST class once the documentation has been received.

Soldiers attending the sessions are then scheduled to take a post-TABE during their final week of class. A comparison of the two TABE scores is then made, and if a Soldier has shown improvement on the post-TABE, he is then allowed to take his initial Armed Forces Classification Test, first retest or second retest. A Soldier is allowed to take the AFCT three times with his commander's approval. Subsequent retests must be approved by the Department of the Army.

If a Soldier does not show improvement on the post-TABE, he is counseled and steps are taken for him to receive additional training.

Soldiers who are interested in raising their GT scores should contact Peterson at (703) 805-9267 or instructor Karen Lloyd at (703) 696-4900.

AMC CG visits Letterkenny

U. S. Army Materiel Command's General Benjamin F. Griffin and Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Business Transformation, Paul Brinkley visited Letterkenny Army Depot on March 8th.

Meeting with Depot Commander, Colonel Robert Swenson for an overview before touring the depot, General Griffin praised Letterkenny for winning the Shingo Prize. "This is a very important award. All of AMC sends their congratulations!"

Visiting the HMMWV line, General Griffin talked with workers at workstations about Lean efficiencies. They took a moment to watch the process of setting an engine into the HMMWV chassis.

General Griffin and Mr. Brinkley moved to the tactical missile areas in and were briefed by COL Swenson on the recent ribbon cutting designating the Javelin Joint Venture and viewed the circuit card area. Both visitors complimented employees and recognized the tedious nature of the process that employees undergo repairing damaged cards.

A steady workload on Generator repair was viewed in Building 37 and while in Bldg 57, General Griffin and Mr. Brinkley saw the tent cities being overhauled, known as Force Provider.

Both visitors remarked on the transformation that Letterkenny is undergoing using Lean and Lean Six Sigma initiatives.

"My dog ate chocolate, is he going to die?"

by Sgt. Dale Kelly
Veterinary Clinic

You wake up on Easter morning and you head downstairs to watch the children open their Easter baskets. You stop in utter disbelief when you see that your mischievous puppy Spot has beaten everyone to the baskets and has eaten the first 16 ounce chocolate rabbit and has just started on the second one. You have heard that chocolate is poisonous to dogs, but is it true? What should you do next?

The truth is chocolate contains theobromine that is toxic to dogs in sufficient quantities. It is a xanthine compound in the same family of caffeine.

Toxic levels

The good news is that it takes, on average, a fairly large amount of theobromine, 100-150 mg per pound of your animal, to cause a toxic reaction. Although there are variables to consider like the individual sensitivity, animal size and chocolate concentration.

White chocolate contains 1 mg per ounce of theobromine. The toxic dose is 200 ounces of white chocolate per pound of body weight. For example 250 pounds of white chocolate will cause signs of nervous system poisoning in a 20-pound dog, 125 pounds in a 10-pound dog.

Milk chocolate contains 60 mg per ounce of theobromine. The toxic dose is one ounce of milk chocolate per pound of body weight. For example one pound of milk chocolate is poisonous to the nervous system of a 20-pound dog; one-half pound in a 10-pound dog. Keep in mind that the average chocolate bar contains two to three ounces of milk chocolate. It would

take two to three candy bars to produce toxicity in a 10-pound dog.

Semisweet chocolate contains 150mg per ounce of chocolate. The toxic dose is 0.3 ounces of semi-sweet chocolate per pound of body weight. One-third of a pound of sweet chocolate is toxic to a 20-pound dog; 1/6 of pound for a 10-pound dog.

Baking chocolate contains 450 mg per ounce of theobromine. The toxic dose is 0.1 ounces of baking chocolate per pound of body weight.

Two one-ounce squares of bakers chocolate is toxic to a 20-pound dog; one ounce for a 10-pound dog.



It would seem that it is all right to let your dog have a chocolate treat every now and then if it is the right kind and it is not very often.

The problem with feeding a dog chocolate as a treat is that it develops a liking for chocolate. Since dogs do not seem to be as sensitive to bitter tastes as humans, they may then eat the more toxic baker's chocolate or they may consume a toxic amount of milk or semi-sweet chocolate if it can get into an improperly stored supply.

What are the signs of toxicity?

Signs are most commonly seen within 12 hours (or less) of chocolate ingestion.

- * Excitement / nervousness / trembling
- * Vomiting / diarrhea
- * Excessive thirst / sometimes excessive urination.
- * Muscle spasms
- * Seizures

* Coma (rare)

* Death (rare) -- likely due to heart rhythm abnormalities.

How is chocolate toxicity treated?

If you suspect that your pet has eaten chocolate (more than the stray chocolate chip that fell on the floor), call your veterinarian for advice.

The toxicity of theobromine is dose dependent. This means that the size of your pet, the type of chocolate, and quantity of chocolate determine if or how toxic it is for your pet.

There is no specific antidote for theobromine toxicity. Medical treatments are supportive, and may include all or some of the following:

* IV fluids - to prevent dehydration from vomiting, diarrhea, and /or increased urination, and to "flush" the theobromine out of the system.

* Emetics - medications that induce vomiting. Used when the ingestion of chocolate is within four hours. Up to eight hours post chocolate ingestion may be effective.

* Activated charcoal - for ingestion greater than four hours prior to treatment, or for patients that show continued signs of toxicity.

* Anti-seizure medications - for patients having seizures and/or muscle tremors.

* Cardiac medications - for patients exhibiting irregular heart rates or rhythms.

What is the prognosis for chocolate toxicosis?

The expected course of chocolate toxicosis is 12 to 36 hours depending on the dosage and effectiveness of treatment. Prognosis is good if the chocolate is removed within two to four hours of ingestion. Prognosis is guarded in animals with advanced signs such as seizures and serious heart dysfunction.

A National Animal Poison Control Center Hotline is available at 1-800-548-2423.

AROUND THE ARMY

Army's Capstone Concept for the Future Force

What is it? The Army's capstone concept for the future force was developed by Training and Doctrine Command in April 2005. This publication is our overarching visualization of how the Army future force will support Joint Force Commanders in the period 2015 - 2024. The ideas presented in this manual are fully integrated within the evolving context of our estimates of the future operating environment, joint and Army strategic guidance, and the joint framework. They have emerged as a result of years of research, wargaming, experimentation, and operational lessons learned by the Army, our sister Services, and the joint community. However, they are far from final - they are but a start point for a dynamic, professional dialogue on how best to meet the needs of the Nation together with our partners in the Defense community. Their purpose is to shape our continuing campaign of learning, and as we test these ideas - even to the point of failure - we expect them to evolve.

The Army's preeminent challenge is to reconcile expeditionary agility and responsiveness with the staying power, durability, and adaptability to carry a conflict to a victorious conclusion, no matter what form it eventually takes. The most dramatic advances in military operations over history were borne of ideas - about warfighting, organization, doctrine. Advances in simulations and wargaming permit exploration and experimentation with new concepts many years before the

fielding of relevant capabilities. Our concepts not only help us visualize future operations - they are the basis for the development of future force capabilities. As our azimuth for the future, they also shape near-term changes to the current force as we adapt to our current conflicts and maintain the Army's Warrior Ethos.

Technological advances alone will not constitute transformation. Our most critical asset is not technology, but the critical thinking of our Soldiers and leaders. Our intent is not to confirm these ideas; it is to challenge them. We seek institutional innovation - the application of critical thinking within an effective organizational framework that can encourage such challenges, examine them honestly, and go where the answers take us. We welcome your comments and collaboration.

Army observes Sexual Assault Awareness Month

The Army joins the other armed services in observing April as National Sexual Assault Awareness Month. This observation serves as an important reminder to continuously reinforce the mission of the Army's Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program to Soldiers and leaders at all levels.

Sexual assault is a crime and it will not be tolerated and has no place in the Army. It is contrary to Army values, tears at the fiber of unit cohesion, and degrades mission readiness.

The Army is dedicated to increasing education about what

sexual assault is, and is not, and what effects incidents of assault have on our fellow Soldiers.

Soldiers must feel confident their leaders take this matter seriously and will respond to each incident appropriately.

Army leaders are strongly encouraged to talk openly to their Soldiers about Sexual Assault, demystify the issue and instill confidence in their subordinates.

One tool for furthering understanding is the revised Army Regulation 600-20's (Army Command Policy) new Chapter 8 on the Army's Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program and related policies. Implementation guidance is provided for creating a command climate that seeks the elimination of sexual assault, and strongly encourages and supports reporting incidents.

Installation commanders can consult their unit's Sexual Assault Response Coordinators (SARCs) for recommended awareness month activities. The SARCs will be receiving information packages from the DoD Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program Office that contain brochures, suggested activities, news articles, and letters.

Another information tool is the Army's Sexual Assault Prevention And Response Program Web site, <http://www.sexualassault.army.mil>, which contains a variety of educational material; individual sexual assault prevention and response actions, lesson plans and links to other resources for leaders and soldiers.

The Army is values based or-

ganization in which Soldiers must treat each other with the dignity and respect they deserve. Effecting the reduction of the incidence of sexual assault, with the objective of full eradication, is the obligation of commanders committed to keeping their Soldiers safe, and maintaining high levels of unit readiness. Active leadership involvement in Sexual Assault Awareness Month activities helps the Army move closer to achieving these goals.

Army to transform the Individual Ready Reserve (IRR)

The Secretary of the Army has endorsed an integrated and systemic approach to reset and reinvigorate the Individual Ready Reserve (IRR). The Army's strategy focuses on transforming the IRR into the Army's leading 'prior service talent bank' through several programmed initiatives as it builds the future force.

According to Mr. Francis J. Harvey, Secretary of the Army, "Senior Army leadership is committed to providing the necessary funding required to shape the Individual Warrior initiative into a viable pool of individuals who are trained and employable to meet the needs of the Army."

The Army plans to immediately develop an identity with increased esprit de corps for members of the IRR by creating a special category within the IRR for its ready and qualified IRR Soldiers. This special category will be called the Individual Warrior (IW)

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Category. Soldiers in the IW Category will be required to maintain a higher state of readiness by participating in virtual musters, attending annual readiness processing and, through managed training opportunities, maintaining proficiency in their military occupational specialty. The IW Category will focus on elevating individual expectation management, proactive career management, unique training opportunities, and promote continuum of service towards a military retirement.

There are over 100,000 Soldiers (enlisted and officers) in the IRR representing over 200 Military Occupational Skills ranging from combat arms, combat support, and combat service support specialties.

Army Parachute Team tests vertical wind tunnel for recruiting

By Staff Sgt. Marie Schult

FORT BRAGG, N.C. (Army News Service) – The U.S. Army Accessions Command and the U.S. Army Parachute Team, or Golden Knights, are looking to the skies as a means of drawing new recruits.

The Golden Knights recently tested a portable vertical wind tunnel, brought to the Knights' home base at Fort Bragg, N.C., by Virtual Reality Skydive.

"I think it would be an excellent recruiting tool for the Army," said Staff Sergeant Brian Krause, the Golden Knights' Formation Freefall Team Leader. "Just because it gives people an idea of what we do every day, it gives them a little of what the Army is all about."



While the Knights are known for innovation and style, this is one idea that they can't claim as their own.

"I got the idea (of the portable tunnel) from watching the closing ceremonies of the Winter Olympics," said Golden Knights Sergeant Major Mike Eitniece. During the 2006 Winter Olympics closing ceremonies, a freefly team wowed the crowds using a portable vertical wind tunnel.

"I bounced the idea off of our commander, and we both felt it had practical applications so we took the opportunity to present the concept to the U.S. Army Accession Command commander, Lt. General Van Antwerp. He loved the idea," said Eitniece.

"I think the kids will love it," said Sergeant 1st Class Dave Herwig, the Knights' information management officer. "They will have the opportunity to do something that a lot of people never do – of course, we do it every day."

The Golden Knights have, for the last 48 years, been a viable recruiting tool for the Army. However, as Krause

pointed out, it's hard to get the public's attention during most events because of everything going on.

He believes the PVWT, in conjunction with Golden Knight freeflyers, will attract more public attention to the Army recruiting tents.

"This thing is always a huge attention getter. It's loud at 146 decibels," said Matthew Kornoely, manager of the PVWT for VR Skydive. He has taken the PVWT to hundreds of colleges and universities in the last two years.

"We will provide the set up and flying crew from the team, and the Mission Support Battalion will provide the primary movers and drivers," said Eitniece. If the Army chooses to purchase it, the PVWT will be kept at the U.S. Army Recruiting Command at Fort Knox, Ky., until it is needed at specific venues.

While the Knights definitely give the PVWT a thumbs up, the Army will do further testing prior to purchasing, according to Capt. Wayne Wall, the Knights' operations officer.

The PVWT will undergo a two-month testing phase sometime this summer, Wall said, adding that the Army will look at crowd reaction, safety, ease of use and recruitment viability during the testing phase.

"We need to see if we can get the best return on our investment," said Wall.

Eitniece said the PVWT would be staffed by a crew of freeflyers who would do short demonstrations and members of the crowd, chosen randomly, would be given the opportunity to do a five-minute flight with a member of the team.

"The Army is always looking for new ways to get the Army's message out there and were thinking that this is one of the way we can benefit," said Wall.

Golden Knights' Tandem Team Leader Sgt. 1st Class Billy VanSoelen and Formation Freefall Team Leader Staff Sgt. Brian Krause assist Maj. John Weisner in his first wind tunnel flight.

Staff Sgt. Marie Schult

Army helps construct new DC school facility

ARNEWS

A new multicultural center with wireless Internet in 150 classrooms opened last week at Lincoln Middle School in Washington, D.C., thanks to assistance from the Army Corps of Engineers.

Since 1998, the Corps of Engineers has been assisting the District of Columbia with efforts to renovate and modernize schools. Early in 1998, faced with a critical facilities situation and the likelihood that schools would not open on time, DC Public Schools came to the Corps for assistance.

Under a memorandum of agreement signed in April 1998, the Corps can provide engineering, contract administration, construction quality assurance, facility management and environmental compliance services and technical assistance.

So far the Corps has partnered with DC to complete more than 1,000 projects, including school structural repairs, installation of new roofs and windows, replacement of old and failing heating and cooling systems, bathroom renovations, flooring upgrades, interior renovation projects, lead and asbestos abatement projects and underground storage tank removals.

The new Bell Lincoln Multicultural Center features 150 classrooms equipped with cable television, multiple computer labs and fully-equipped language and translation labs. The televisions in each classroom are plugged into the Public Schools' educational closed-circuit system to provide not only local and international news, but also televideo educational sessions.

"This kind of learning environment will give students a better opportunity to succeed in the future,"

said Lydia Blazquez, principal of Lincoln Middle School.

The campus also features vanguard technology and architectural designs that place it at the forefront of innovative learning techniques. Highlights include a top-of-the-line wireless communication system accessible in every classroom and office, the latest in scientific learning and research laboratories, daycare centers, dance studios, athletic facilities, a cosmetology center and an underground parking garage.

"Throughout his tenure with DCPS, Superintendent Dr. Clifford B. Janey has fostered an environment of collaboration," said Cornell Brown Jr., executive director of the Office of Facilities Management for DC Public Schools.

The project delivery team included members of the community, the school's staff, the designers, the builders, DCPS Office of Facilities Management staff, other District of Columbia government officials and the Corps, according to Mike Rogers, the Corps' DC Programs Office program manager.

"A prime factor in the success of this project is the teaming environment that was established very early on," said Manal Ezzat, project manager for the Bell Lincoln Multicultural Center.

Rogers agreed that close cooperation among agencies contributed to the project's success.

"This collaborative team provided an opportunity for all partners to contribute to the project, instilled a sense of ownership, motivation and encouragement among the team and provided a mechanism for timely decision making as the project unfolded," said Rogers.

The facility replaces the original 98,000-square-foot Bell High

School built in 1910, as well as the original 185,000-square-foot Lincoln Middle School built in 1967. Bell's capacity was 579 students with a current enrollment of about 650, while Lincoln's capacity was 1,290 students with a year 2000 enrollment of about 385.

Part of the funding for the school came from the efforts of the Multicultural Career Intern Program, a nonprofit affiliate of Bell High School.

"This project was a perfect opportunity to see the best in contractor selection and construction management through the Army Corps and vigilant oversight by DCPS's superintendent and the Board of Education," said Carol Stoel, chair of MCIP's board of directors.

"This school is the result of the hard work of parents, the community, the Corps of Engineers and DCPS," said Brown. "All parties involved should take pride in this state-of-the-art facility where our educators will help DCPS achieve success — one student at a time."

Turkeva has great expectations for the new learning facility.

"These new halls of learning will produce leaders for generations to come," Burkeva said.

The Bell Lincoln Multicultural Center is the 10th fully modernized and rebuilt school the Corps has completed and turned over to DC.

The Corps is also managing school modernization projects at Thomson Elementary School and Luke C. Moore High School. Thomson Elementary opened its doors to students Jan. 17, and Luke C. Moore is currently scheduled for occupancy in the fall.

(Editor's note: Information provided by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Public Affairs.)

Army's Modular Force makes debut in Afghanistan

By Gerry J. Gilmore
American Forces Press Service

New, modular brigade combat team units accompanied the U.S. Army's 10th Mountain Division on its third tour to Afghanistan, the division's commander told Pentagon reporters today.

"This marks the first deployment of the Army's modular force to Operation Enduring Freedom," Maj. Gen. Benjamin C. Freakley said from Afghanistan during a satellite news conference. Freakley is also commander of Combined Joint Task Force 76, based at Bagram Air Base.

The task force has more than 15,000 U.S. soldiers, sailors and Marines and about 4,300 coalition members, including Canadian, British, Dutch and Romanian forces.

The 10th's brigade combat teams are part of the Army's

transformation into a more agile force with improved firepower.

About 50 percent of the 10th Division's soldiers are either Afghanistan or Iraq combat veterans, Freakley said. And around 35 percent of the 10th's people now in Afghanistan have seen combat there before, he said.

Navy, Marine and Air Force fixed- and rotary-wing fliers support the 10th Division contingent in Afghanistan. "This is a great joint team," Freakley said.

Freakley said the keys to establishing security and stability across Afghanistan are partnering with the Afghan National Army, the Afghan National Police, and the Afghan Border Police.

U.S. and coalition forces fight alongside the Afghan army during anti-terrorist operations throughout Afghanistan, Freakley said. U.S. forces also conduct operations with Pakistani forces when-

ever possible, he said. The 10th division also supports provincial reconstruction teams, which work to rebuild or improve Afghanistan's infrastructure.

"The infrastructure here is very embryonic; it's a tough infrastructure," Freakley said, noting that infrastructure improvement improves security, which is followed by reconstruction.

Freakley noted that U.S. forces in Afghanistan's eastern regions will come under the command and control of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force in the fall. At that time "NATO will take responsibility for all of Afghanistan for security, reconstruction and helping with governance," Freakley said. "We think that it's a logical and constructive step in the growth of the international community's assistance to Afghanistan."

SMA Preston speaks with 1st ID Soldiers and leadership

By Spc. Stephen Baack
ARNEWS

SCHWEINFURT, Germany – Before Soldiers across the 1st Infantry Division landscape began the shift from transformation preparation to implementation, they had the chance to receive reliable information and advice from a trusted source.

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth O. Preston spoke separately to packed rooms of junior enlisted Soldiers and noncommissioned officers from the 1st ID at the Ledward Barracks Theater in Schweinfurt March 23.

Preston addressed a variety of prime concerns including Army transformation, recruiting and retention, career stability and predictability, three-year life cycles and how they each tied into the Global War on Terror. He also fielded questions on Soldier-chosen topics and held an open forum regarding the Army Combat Uniform.

Preston began by mentioning the most important current Army missions: the Global War on Terror and transformation, in that order, and explained in depth how recruiting and retention have become central.

"Really, if you go into all of the units and the organizations out there around the Army, there are literally thousands and thousands of missions that are going on every day ... but I know in my heart that from mission number one, the Global War on Terror, all the way down to mission number 2,000, that all of those missions are built on a foundation called recruiting and retention," said Preston, who added this is the first time in our nation's history that we've ever sustained a long-duration deployment with an all-volunteer force.

"We're here because we want to be here ... and we're going to get to a point where we've got to make a choice," said Preston. "We've got to de-

cide to go to the left and leave the Army and return to the civilian workforce and do what we want to do – or we choose to go to the right and stay with the Army."

Transformation progress

An understanding of where the transformation is taking the Army in the next two years, Preston emphasized, is pertinent to that choice.

"I think that when you really know and understand what the Army's doing right now with transformation – what we've accomplished in the last two years – wherever we are right now and wherever we're going, you're going to see we're going to be head-and-shoulders in the next two years above where we were two years ago."

Preston elaborated on increasing the Army's deployable force, stressing that doing so is meant to raise predict-

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ability and stability. The Army-wide goal, he said, is to increase the number of active-duty Brigade Combat Teams to 46 by the end of this year.

Preston added, the goal of "rebalancing the force" is just as critically aimed at combat support and service support units and Soldiers, and that increases in Soldiers with "low-density/high-demand Military Occupational Specialties – such as military police, transportation, water purification and psychological operations – are vital. Specifically, MP numbers are scheduled to nearly double alongside the Army-wide increase in recruiting and retention requirements. Preston cited back-to-back deployments in the support sector of the force. Conversely, he stated, other MOSs are slated to shrink.

"We're going to take about 120,000 Soldiers – active, Guard and Reserve – and transition them out of what I call the 'high-density/low demand' kind of units," said Preston. "There are some air defense artillery, some artillery, some armor, some combat engineer and some logistics units out there. There's a lot of structure out there that we needed during the Cold War. If we ever went to war with the Soviet Union, we would have needed that structure. The battlefield and how we use it in the Army today has changed. What we want to do is shrink some of that structure ... some as much as 30-35 percent and use that structure to go toward the 'low-density/high-demand' kind of MOSs."

Active force slated to grow

Preston dedicated to the topic of recruiting and retention, and how the Army is working to grow the size of the active-duty force by 30,000 to more than 512,000.

Preston countered newspaper headlines – depicting recruiting goals unmet – by explaining how much the Army boosted its own standards since 2003 in both recruiting and retention.

He explained that through 2003, the retention objective was 51,000 Soldiers to sustain the 482,400-Soldier force, but that in 2004 the Army exceeded its objective of 56,000 Soldiers and finished the year with 102 percent. Moving into 2005, the new retention goal was higher still at 64,000 Soldiers, which the Army exceeded by eight percent with a total of 69,000



SMA Preston and the 1st ID Soldiers

Soldiers.

In 2004, the standard for recruiting rose from 72,000 Soldiers to 77,000, which the Army exceeded by one percent. Preston said the Army wanted to further challenge recruiters with another increase to a goal of 80,000, but fell short at 92 percent.

"The bottom line is, as long as we continue to exceed the original 72,000, we're growing the size of the active duty Army," said Preston. "Between recruiting and retention, we more than recruited the 10,000 Soldiers we wanted to get for that year. By 2009, our goal is to get to 512,400." He said that the 30,000-Soldier increase is to give the Army the flexibility in the system to ensure all of the units stay up and running.

Serving longer in place

Preston described the intentions of Army leadership to push for three-year life cycles and five-to-seven year-long stabilization plans.

"I've got friends who, over a 30-year career, spent 25 or 30 years at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, out with the 82nd (Airborne Division) or the XVIII Airborne Corps," he said. "As we become more and more a CONUS-based Army – as we begin to scale down the numbers of Soldiers in units overseas like here in Germany, or in Korea – why couldn't all of those larger installations like Fort Bragg be just like that?"

The three-year life cycle plan, Preston said, is planned to be put into effect to promote predictability and stability in a Soldier's life, and especially in those who are married and have children. The five-to-seven-year stabilization is based on the idea that Soldiers will be encouraged to re-enlist for the same duty station for an-

other three years, but will only stay until they can become drill sergeants, recruiters or instructors. The alternative to those options, Preston said, would be to stay for a third life-cycle and become a platoon sergeant to stay competitive for a sergeant first class promotion board.

"If you've got the opportunities when you go from one life cycle to the next life cycle, and as you progress and become more senior in rank and have the opportunities to move up into positions of increased responsibility, why not stay?"

"From a noncommissioned officer's perspective – from a trainer's perspective – you really get to focus on the mission that your unit's going to do," Preston continued. "If you're not needed to deploy someplace in the world, at least you know, wherever the window of opportunity is, where you could deploy if something happens."

The stabilization will also be important to spouses and children, Preston emphasized.

"Fifty-one percent of our Soldiers out there today are married," he said. "Out of those 51 percent, most military spouses out there today have jobs but they don't necessarily have careers. The reason why they have jobs instead of careers is because those firms, businesses and institutions out there won't invest the training money in military spouses when they know they're going to pack up and move every three years."

"When the dust settles and we're done with this transformation, you're going to have a lot more predictability and a lot more stability in the Soldier's and family's lives," he said.

Preston wrapped up his visit with questions, including a discussion on the Army Combat Uniform. Soldiers asked about the implementation of the XM-8 and up-armored vehicles, the new situation with Iran, incentives to enlist versus incentives to re-enlist. Though he provided broad answers to the questions, some concerns, like an Iraq timeline, were out of his reach.

"I've got this little crystal ball that sits on my desk, but it ain't been working lately," Preston joked.

During the last portion of his talk with the Soldiers, Preston mentioned the news media's negative focus on the Army's role in Iraq, and stressed, "What I ask is that when you come back from R&R leave is that you tell the Army story."



From the Front Lines....



FOB McHenry benefits from 'sniff support'

By Spc. Barbara Ospina, ARNEWS

KIRKUK, Iraq -- With a modified ballistic vest, a Screaming Eagle combat patch and a Combat Action Badge, Zeko still may not look like the average Soldier, but he has become a valuable asset to the troops of Forward Operating Base McHenry.

The explosive detection dog has found improvised bombs buried several feet in the hard desert ground.

Zeko has brought new meaning to the phrase "man's best friend," said Bastogne Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, stationed at FOB McHenry.

"He's got a good rapport with the Soldiers," said Staff Sgt. David Silberman, Zeko's kennel master and partner for nearly two and a half years now.

"Our missions are really broad; we support everything," Silberman reflected. "Every day we are learning something different for us to do."

When it comes to his job, Zeko may be at the top of his game, but Silberman says he trains on a regular basis, just like Soldiers.

Silberman said it takes on average two and a half years to get an explosive dog certified, but it does not end there; each dog must also go through an annual certification. Each dog must have a minimum 95-percent success rate on explosive detection or the dog is decertified.

"Explosive dogs are trained in nine different explosive odors," Silberman stated confidently, while petting his partner. "He's got to find every single one; he can't miss them."

Although Zeko is currently tested at 98.7 percent, and trained in desert warfare, Silberman takes it upon himself to keep their team up to the task by training everyday.

Using a newly built training course, Zeko practices many different obstacles.

Zeko warms up, walking through a small jump, followed by stairs and tunnels.

The real workout starts when shouts echo through the air, followed by yelping. Silberman holds Zeko tightly, while a volunteer Soldier wearing a protective sleeve runs. Then, at the right moment, Silberman releases the now vicious dog. Zeko sprints after the man, leaping into the air and locking his jaw on the Soldier's protected arm.

Attempts to shake him off fail as Zeko just bites harder. Then with a single command from his handler, Zeko releases the Soldier and returns to sit next to Silberman. A few seconds later, Zeko is



Zeko

rewarded with playful hugs and praises.

Not only does this furry four-legged Soldier pull his weight in the fight against improvised explosive devices, he has become very protective of his new Bastogne comrades.

"We get to spend a lot of time with [Soldiers], he's really close, and really protective of them," Silberman said. "When we are taking rounds, he's watching and really alert of his Soldiers, so he's got a pretty good rapport with those guys."

Iraqi Army's 1st Brigade, 1st Division, arrives in Ramadi

ARNEWS

RAMADI, Iraq – “We are the Soldiers of the 1st Brigade 1st Division Iraqi Army. Our mission is to save the innocent citizens of Ramadi from the black hands of the insurgents that are shedding their blood,” said the 1-1 Brigade Commander. “We promise the innocent Iraqi citizens that we will be the sons who will be responsible to protect the families that live in the Al Anbar Province.”

The 1-1 Iraqi Army Brigade has arrived in eastern Ramadi, and has been moving into the East Ramadi Iraqi Camps during the past week. The unit successfully transported the last of their Soldiers to ERIC, the night of March 26.

“The addition of the 1st Brigade 1st Division Iraqi Army is a huge combat multiplier. Their ability to gain factual information is paramount to fighting the insurgency,” said Col. John L Gronski, Commander for the 2/28 BCT. “These Soldiers are warriors; they do not run and hide from the insurgents. Since our arrival here in July 2005, we have seen the IA make tremendous strides towards securing the city of Ramadi. They have been very successful in detaining insurgents, discovering weapons caches, and winning the trust of the citizens of Al Anbar,” he added.

With the addition of the 1-1 Iraqi Army Brigade, the Iraqi security forces in Ramadi continue to grow in strength and numbers. The 1-1 IA is focused on establishing a stable and secure environment for the citizens of Ramadi, a former insurgent stronghold.

Insurgents operating in the eastern Ramadi area are linked to the Al Qaida in Iraq cell in the Al Anbar Province, which is part of the Abu Musab al Zarqawi terrorist network. AQIZ is attempting to gain control of local towns, by using threat and intimidation tactics, to enlist local support for their terrorist cause.

“The Iraqi Army Soldier adds a dimension that coalition Soldiers can’t. First and foremost, they are citizens of Iraq, and they are dedicated to protecting the Iraqi People. They speak the language, they know the culture. They are easily accepted and trusted by the local citizens of Ramadi,” said Maj. William Fall, the Iraqi Army Liaison for the 2/28 BCT.

Governor of the Al Anbar Province, Sami Ma’moun Rasheed, and the 1-1 Brigade Commander are scheduled to meet in the near future to discuss how to best utilize the strength of the 1-1 Iraqi Army.

Insurgents captured after attack on Coalition troops

ARNEWS

HAWIJAH, Iraq – Civil Affairs Soldiers attached to the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), were on a goodwill mission to meet with citizens of Hawijah to discuss how Coalition Forces could help improve living conditions in the city

when the convoy was hit by two RPG’s and small arms fire.

After confirming the location of the attackers, who were on the roof of a nearby building, the 101st Soldiers returned fire. Soldiers from Company A, 1-327th Infantry Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, were called to conduct a sweep of the area.

During the sweep, the Soldiers captured the two individuals who were moved to a nearby military compound for questioning after a wipe-test confirmed the presence

of gunpowder residue on their hands. No Coalition Forces were injured in the attack, though two convoy vehicles sustained minor damages.

A local woman and her two-year-old were injured by the insurgents during the attack, however, an Army medic provided on-site care before they were moved to a U.S. medical facility in Kirkuk for further treatment. Mother and child are reported to be in stable condition.

Operation Scorpion concludes

ARNEWS

KIRKUK, Iraq – Soldiers of the 2nd Brigade, 4th Iraqi Army Division, with assistance from Soldiers from 1st Brigade Combat Team, Bastogne, 101st Airborne Division, detained 52 suspected insurgents Friday during Operation Scorpion, a sequential cordon and search of eight villages in and around Hawijah.

During the second Iraqi Brigade-led operation in as many months, Iraqi Soldiers confirmed that 24 out of the 52 detainees were on their target list, built from their own intelligence gathering. The other detainees are being held for further questioning.

“This Iraqi Army Brigade has made tremendous progress in the five months we’ve been working with them,” said Col. David Gray, Commander, 1st BCT, 101st Airborne Division. “In October, they were loosely organized and not very well trained. The success of Operation Scorpion, and their ability to conduct a complex mission in the Hawijah area without suffering or inflicting casualties, demonstrates their professionalism and improved level of discipline.”

The Iraqi-planned and led offensive started just before sunrise, as Iraqi Soldiers linked up with their Bastogne comrades to begin their coordinated movement. Just after 4:00 a.m. Iraqi Soldiers moved through the villages, systematically searching for the selected targets that Iraqi intelligence indicated were in the area while OH-58 Kiowa helicopters from 2nd Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment, circled above and Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 1st BCT, provided outer perimeter security. The thorough searches provided intelligence leading to more evidence and the capture of more suspects.

“This operation was developed and planned by Maj. Gen. Anwar, Commander of the 2nd Iraqi Army Brigade, and his staff,” Gray said. “The willingness and ability of the Iraqi Soldiers to take on a mission of this scope, and in an area that has been a hotbed of terrorist activity, is an indicator of the progress the Iraqi Army has made.”

Operation Scorpion began with supporting operations in the village of Mahoos and the city of Kirkuk. While 101st Soldiers provided perimeter security, Iraqi Soldiers, acting on their own intel-

ligence sources, moved by helicopter into the village of Mahoos, searching for seven terror suspects. Within two hours of touching down, the Iraqi Company had searched their designated targets, captured five of their intended suspects, and were back on the helicopters headed for a nearby U.S. Army compound.

Meanwhile, in another supporting operation, Soldiers from the Iraqi Army’s 2nd Battalion, 2nd Brigade teamed up with Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 1st BCT, to conduct raids for suspected terrorists in Kirkuk. As Coalition Soldiers provided outer cordon security, Iraqi Soldiers moved through the neighborhoods, capturing six intended targets. They also discovered a weapons cache of two unregistered AK-47 rifles along with various materials used to make IEDs.

The Iraqi security forces have proved their worth on the ground in this operation, both in terms of intelligence gathering and their skills at completing the mission. They have continued to make progress and they have unique advantages in identifying threats and deterring insurgent activity due to their familiarity with the area and culture.

Iraqi brigade destroys terrorist hideouts near Kirkuk

ARNEWS

TIKRIT, Iraq – Soldiers of 2nd Brigade, 4th Iraqi Army Division took another step toward independent operations Wednesday, as they conducted a brigade-level opera-

tion that destroyed terrorist hideouts in and around Kirkuk.

Supported by the 101st Airborne Division’s 1st Brigade Combat Team, the Iraqi brigade’s three battalions conducted simultaneous

raids, cordon and searches, and combat patrols. Soldiers from the 1st BCT supported the mission by providing outer-cordon security, air reconnaissance and close air support.

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The mission was a combined effort to destroy known terrorist hideouts and disrupt their activity and included the destruction of a building used by terrorists to conduct IED attacks. The building was leveled by coalition aircraft using precision-guided munitions.

The mission enabled the Iraqi Soldiers to detain six suspects and confiscate numerous weapons without incurring or inflicting any casualties.

Iraqi staff plans operation

The Iraqi brigade's commanders and staff were responsible for every aspect of the mission, from planning to execution, according to Maj. Mofuk Fathi Kdheer, the 2nd Bn. Operations Officer.

After the brigade's leaders reviewed intelligence reports received from their higher command and coalition forces, they conducted reconnaissance and planned the mission.

Military Transition Teams from 1st BCT followed the mission planning and accompanied the Iraqi units during the operations, but the MiTT Soldiers didn't have to take

an active role, said Maj. Chris Kidd, the officer in charge of the 2nd Bn., 327th Infantry Regiment MiTT.

"This morning there was not a [coalition] company commander or his Soldiers present for the mission," Kidd said. "There were only Iraqi Soldiers and a MiTT standing in the background in an advisory role."

Maj. Gen. Anwar Hama Ameen Amed, the Iraqi brigade commander, watched his Soldiers execute the missions from a coalition command and control aircraft. Col. David Gray, the 1st BCT commander, accompanied Anwar on the aircraft to advise the Iraqi commander as he maintained command of all his forces spread throughout the province.

101st still dominates area

"The Soldiers of the 1st Brigade Combat Team still maintain the dominant role in the fight against terrorism in this region, but this operation was a chance to build the skill-set of the Iraqi forces," Gray said. He added that as the Iraqi soldiers continue to improve, they will assume an increasing share of the fight.

"I hope this mission will become a small experience leading up to another large mission," Mofuk said.

"Coalition Forces help us day after day to do it by ourselves," said Col. Malik Kdher Ahmed, the 2nd Bn. commander. "Their experience and classes have helped in a very good way."

"They did exceptionally well," said Kidd. "The greatest improvement has shown in their ability to react to change."

Kidd said the 2nd Bn. leaders were given new intelligence leading them to a different suspected insurgent the evening prior to execution. Instead of taking the easy way out and sticking with the original plan, they weighed the value of the intelligence report and made a command decision to change their plan.

"We didn't direct or push them on which suspect they should go for," Kidd said. "We did not advise them and they made the right decision."



ACES launches virtual gateway to tuition assistance

WASHINGTON (Army News Service) — The Army Continuing Education System launched the new GoArmyEd portal at www.GoArmyEd.com April 1.

The virtual gateway is a one-stop location where Soldiers can process tuition assistance and sign up for college

courses 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The portal can also link Soldiers to technical support.

"We now provide Soldiers much greater access to their education benefits. We're especially excited about how this will help our Soldiers who are deployed," said Kelley Mustion, program manager for the new gateway.

Previously, Soldiers were required to visit an Army Education Center in order to enroll in classes and process paperwork for TA. The new system saves Soldiers' time and makes seeking a higher education easier. It also enables AEC personnel

to focus on providing education counseling instead of processing hundreds of TA invoices each month.

More than 150 schools that have historically processed TA with ACES are listed in the GoArmyEd portal. These schools typically support 90 percent of the Army's TA-funded enrollments.

GoArmyEd is also now the portal for eArmyU, an online academic program offering more than 145 degree and certificate programs from 28 colleges and universities. Developed in 2001, more than 65,000 Soldiers are currently enrolled in eArmyU.